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THE WEEK.

MONDAY, 3RD APRIL.

WE HAVE much pleasure in giving a prominent insertion to the following letter :

Dinagepore 31st March, 1876.

If you think it a piece of news that may interest some of your readers, I shall feel obliged if you announce in your paper that I am engaged in the compilation of a practical English-Sanskrit Dictionary.—Its object is not simply to give Sanskrit equivalents for English words, but also to shew how these words are employed in combination with other words.

It is expected that the work will be complete in two octavo volumes of about 800 pages each. The price of each volume will be fixed at 10 Rs. to subscribers and 15 Rs. to non-subscribers. I will, hereafter, advertise the names of my agents who will register the names of those who may intend to subscribe. But I request you now to announce that the names of subscribers will not be registered after the 1st of August.

The first volume of my work will be out probably in November of this year and the second probably in the beginning of 1878. As it is not unlikely that you may not form an accurate opinion of the work by seeing only a few pages of it, I wait till the completion of the first volume before presenting you with a copy.

I may however, inform you that Professor Max Muller has written to me that "the work, if carried out in the same manner as the specimen (first 64 pages) will prove very useful and reflect credit on native scholarship. "Your work," he continues, is evidently, not simply a Sanskrit English Dictionary mechanically inverted, but you have treated each word independently, and by giving the nearest approach to each English word in Sanskrit, you have shewn your familiarity with the idioms of both languages. The passages from Sanskrit writers, illustrative of the employment of Sanskrit words, are extremely useful and give to your work a really scholar like character."

As I have not got the final orders of all Indian Governments about my work, I reserve to its preface to express my obligations to those, who have already kindly subscribed and who may yet subscribe to it. But I may, in this place express my thanks to my other subscribers, among whom I am proud to reckon,—His Excellency the Viceroy, Professor Max Muller, Messrs W. J. Money, R. H. Pawsey and J. Pratt of the Bengal Civil Service, Messrs L. W. Hutchinson, E. M. Reily and Syed Mohamed Israil of the Uncovenanted Service, Baboos Chandra Kumar Ghosh, Kali Shankar Guha, Gunga Das Guha, of the bar, and others. My special thanks are due to Lord Northbrook, for being the first and foremost to encourage it.

Yours faithfully,
A. BOSOOAH
Of the Bengal Civil Service,

WE HAVE received a report of the meeting of the Marriage Reform Association of Behar, held at Mozufferpore on the 26th ultimo. Munshi Pearilal, the author of the movement, reported progress. We regret we cannot make room for the report, but we give below the rules adopted by the Association :

I. The amount of "Tiluk" and "Jahez" should never exceed the sum of Rs. 125 out of which the "Tiluk" may be from 1 to 51 and the Jahez from 1 to 74 Rs.

II. The number of men &c. forming a marriage procession should be regulated according to the position and means of the bride's guardian, but in no case should the number of men exceed 500 and that of elephant exceed 5. The number of men who go to perform the "Tiluk" ceremony should not exceed 5 persons.

III. The parties who form the procession should take their provisions according to their exact number—and it shall be incumbent on the bridal party to supply provisions to the processions for both means so long as it remains encamped there.

IV. The marriage procession should make its appearance on the premises of the bridal party at day time. Fire works, "Binghbari" Takht Rawan (travelling thrones) and mimickeries are prohibited—but music is allowed as may be necessary.

V. Dresses and ornaments (Dal) may be presented by the bridegroom's party as may be deemed necessary, but in no case should the number of dresses exceed 9.

VI. Drinking of wine is prohibited for both parties so long as the procession is encamped.

VII. If it be not against the family custom, the bride should accompany her husband home. If, however, this cannot be done, the ceremony of "Nak perchalun" should be at once performed, so that there might be no impediment to the husband's going to his wife's place.

VIII. The procession from the date of its arrival should not remain at the bride's house for more than 3 drys. The bridal party should see that the procession is not detained longer.

IX. The bridegroom party should go to dinners at the first invitation sent by the bridal party—and should some persons be not ready, others should not await for their joining, but should go at once.

X. The Brahmins should get from Rs. 1-4 to 10 Rs. as "Sumungh lee." Besides this fee, any thing which may be voluntarily given to Brahmins and barber as recompense for their trouble is not prohibited.

XI. The parties who go to join the procession should not give way to unnecessary and showy preparations. They should travel in conveyances generally used by them without pomp and show.

XII. The well-to-do people of a caste should assist their poor caste-fellows to enable them to give away their girls in marriage so soon as the girls arrive to puberty.

This rule is provided in order that needy persons may not give away their girls in marriage on taking money or other valuables directly or indirectly.

Note.

Those who shall act in contravention to the 12 rules above laid down shall render themselves liables for their acts according to the nature of such contravention in a certain sum of "dharamdund" (or fine) and shall also be liable to such other penalties which the committee may think right to impose upon them.

WE ARE REQUESTED to publish the following extract from an article from the *Revue de deux Mondes* of Paris reviewing Babu Gostobehari Mullick's Life and Speeches of Lord Mayo :

"The most curious thing is that this collection is the work of a Hindoo, and that it is made at the instigation of an indigenous Prince, the Maharaja of Pattialla. Is that not an indication of the influence which English ideas exercise on the Native population of India ?

The works of Monsieur Gosto Behary Mullick are already numerous. This which he has consecrated to Lord Mayo, shews not only that he can write English correctly but that he understands European manners."

WE ARE SORRY to read the following in a London letter of a contemporary :

"The *Sultan*, one of the newest ironclads, is being put into commission, and the Duke will shortly take the command of her and leave England for a three years' cruise. The Duchess will also leave England at the same time, and repair to St. Petersburgh, where she will stay for an indefinite period. This singular arrangement is said to be in consequence of a very serious domestic difference, which will lead, it is feared, to disagreeable complications in the relationship between the Royal families of England and Russia. A formal and perpetual separation is talked of, but that is mere gossip, for which I have heard no satisfactory authority. This is certain, that the Duke and Duchess have not appeared together in public for some time, and this, taken in conjunction with the departure of both separately from England, has an unpleasant significance."

IT IS STATED that Sir George Elliot, the millionaire, began life as a boy in a coal mine ; he is now a baronet, and the possessor of enormous wealth. Quite recently he lodged two millions sterling in the hands of the Khedive's bankers at Cairo as a deposit to prove his power of purchasing the Egyptian railways.

SOME STARTLING revelations are coming to light before the Commitee now sitting at Philadelphia to inquire into General Schenck's connection with that notorious swindle, the Emma Mine. According to the evidence of Mr Lyon, one of the original vendors of the property, almost every one connected with the launching of the concern got a handsome share of the plunder. Mr. Albert Grant, the promoter, received £100,000 ; Messrs. Jay Cooke. McCulloch& Co. £25,000, solely for the use of their firm's name ; Mr. Puleston a member of that house, £10,000. but the amount was never paid, Messrs Albert Lewis of Liverpool, £8,000, and Professor Silliman £10,000, for "making a favourable report on the mine." As regards General Schenck's part in the affair, he is alleged to have received 800 shares in all, which he forthwith, sold at £ 3 premium. It is said that the General paid for every share he received. and that he lost considerably on the lot before he finally got them off his hands. But there seems to be no question that at least half the money subscribed by the public went into the pockets of the nice little family party who blew the bubble.

TUESDAY, 4TH APRIL.

THE INDIAN PUBLIC OPINION has the following : "The Legislative Council of Bengal, that is to say, the official element therein, has passed the Calcutta Municipal Act, and this, in the teeth of the protests of the whole of the non-official members of council, who may be said to have fairly represented public opinion at Calcutta. We shall be much surprised if the protests of the non-official members will pass unheeded by the Viceroy or the Secretary of State for India, and if this wanton and unseemly disregard of public opinion is not taken serious notice of in England."

LORD NAPIER's gold medal for the best shot in the native army has been won by a sepoy of the 4th Goorkhas.

A LONDON Correspondent says that Lord Lytton's departure has been signalised by a great row in the Athenæum Club :

"It is one of the peculiarities of the Athenæum that it has no strangers' dining room, and that no visitor can eat or drink within its walls. Time after time, attempts had been made to relax the rule, but without effect. The 'immortals' are very conservative, and, besides, most of them belong to other clubs, where they can entertain their friends when the occasion arises. Some of them forget the restriction, and unfortunately it dropped out of the remembrance of Sir William Vernon Harcourt when he asked Lord Lytton to dine with him one day last week. Dinner had been ordered early in the day, and the distinguished guest turned up at seven and took his place at the table. But the lynx-eyed hall porter noticed that 'strangers were present,' and communicated the fact to the manager, who, however much he might have been inclined to wink at the transgression, was now compelled to inform the ex-Solicitor General that it could not be allowed. By this time, the soup had been served, and the host was indignant that his hospitality should be interfered with. The manager, however, was immovable, and Lord Lytton was compelled to leave. Probably, the two went to the Devonshire, which has a strangers' room ;-that I don't know, but I do know that Sir William Harcourt, backed up by many other members, has addressed a very strong representation to the Committee of the Athenæum, and that the question will be discussed in the course of a few days. Everybody is disgusted that so awkward a *contretemps* should have happened in connection with the Viceroy-elect, though Lord Lytton, to his credit, laughed at the occurrence, and begged that it should not be made the basis of a club squabble."

IT IS SAID that about 15,000 bunches of violets are sold every day in Paris. Their sale amounts to 500,000 francs a year. Great numbers of persons live by its sale and its culture in the sandy fields to the south of Paris.

AT JEDDO, the capital of Japan, three military and naval schools, and a school of engineers will shortly be opened.

A CIVILIAN, Mr. La Touche, was appointed a District Superintendent of Police in the North West, and a memorial was submitted to Government by the officers of the Police Department against this supersession. Sir John Strachey has given a caustic reply. He says that no assurance has been given to the department at any time, to the effect that it was to be looked on as a separate and distinct department in the sense that all police appointments should be reserved for officers on its rolls. He adds :

"As a matter of fact, moreover "viewed from length of service in the police department, the salaries of police officers are in very many cases higher than those of civilians of equal standing ; and from this point of view police officers in these provinces have, in His Honor's opinion, nothing whatever to complain of. While, therefore, the claims of deserving police officers will always be remembered, the Lieutenant Governor desires it to be distinctly understood that he will in future appoint civilians or other qualified officers to police posts whenever, in his judgment, the interests of the public service seem to require it.

SIR ARTHUR PHAYRE has recorded a minute on the Tobacco tax in Mauritius from which we make the following extract :

"The rulers of every country appear to have considered tobacco as an article on which a Revenue might be raised, as justly as on the consumption of intoxicating liquors. Smoking is a luxury which they who indulge in may fairly be called on to pay for. As far as providing a sum for the Treasury is concerned, the present method for doing so, that is, by imposing an import duty, is the best. It causes no vexatious interference with the population and the sum of £53,000 a year is collected at a small fractional charge. If it were considered necessary still to raise the same amount for the Revenue of the Island, from the growth of tobacco, it is probable that many years will elapse before this could be done, I am informed that about 1000 lbs of dried leaf tobacco can be raised from one acre.

The quantity of tobacco manufactured and unmanufactured imported in 1875 amounted to 673,900 lbs. In round numbers 673 acres would be required to raise that quantity, But as that area could not be cultivated as long as the present rate of tax is maintained, it is evident that the question now under consideration must be discussed with reference to financial as well as agricultural consideration.

The financial portion of the question may be stated to be whether it is desirable in the interest of the colony to abandon the sum of £53,000 now yielded by the import duty on tobacco with the prospect in a distant future of the loss being made up indirectly. For it appears almost certain that the above sum could not be raised from tobacco by any other method than that now followed. Every acre of tobacco now grown yields £16 to the Treasury. But 1000 lbs. imported by sea yield £70 to the Treasury. The proportional expense of each method is very much greater in the former case than in the latter.

The agricultural question may be stated to be, whether it is probable that by abolishing the land tax on the cultivation of tobacco, a sufficient quantity of the leaf could in the course of years be raised for home consumption and for exportation, so as to compensate by additional employment of labour and increase of product suitable for exportation, for the revenue abandoned. Further, whether, there is sufficient land for securing the said object, which is more suitable for planting with tobacco, than with canes, vanilla or other vegetable produce.

These are questions of great importance to the Colony. The latter more specially to be discussed by those well acquainted with the actual condition and nature of the land, in order that the agricultural side of the subject may be exposed before the general question comes under the consideration of Council of Government.

WEDNESDAY, 5TH APRIL.

THE PARIS CORRESPONDENT of the *Englishman* gives the following account of two women of renown, who have just passed away :

Two women of some renown, Mesdames d'Agoult and Louise Colet, have died in the course of this eventful week. They were both eminently gifted with beauty and literary talent, and of very ancient lineage. Both dashed from the orbit in which women of their birth and breeding are generally content to move, and were associated with most of the master minds of their period. The Countess d'Agoult, Mdlle. de Flavigny,

eloped at the age of eighteen, thirteen months after her marriage, with Litz. She heard him perform on the piano at a concert given by Mr. Sosthene de la Rochefaucauld, and fell in love with him to the extent of sacrificing a fine position at Court, and forsaking an infant daughter. After leading for a few years a wandering life, she hired a palazzo in Rome, where she gave dinners and soirees to the great artists and other masculine celebrities who congregated there. A family of fair young girls sprung up about her. The eldest, Blandine, was afterwards married to Mr. Emile Ollivier, and the second is the wife of Wagner, the composer of the Tannhauser. She was the wife of Herr Hans Bulow a few years ago; but they divorced by mutual consent after the favorite musician of the King of Bavaria declared his love for her. Mme. d'Agoult quarrelled with Litz three years after her elopement with him. She returned to Paris in 1847, and was present at the Revolution of February, of which she wrote a history, now classed as a standard work. Twelve years ago, she hired the suite of apartments in which she died, in the Rue de Presburg, close to the Arch of Triumph. Her Thursday evening parties were attended by M. M. Littre, Lafitte, Robinet, Emile Ollivier, Scherer, Guerault, John Lemoinne, Prince Napoleon, and most of the great painters and musicians who had elected domicile in Paris. A few elderly ladies of literary reputation, and the Comtesse de Charnace, Mme. d'Agoult's eldest and only legitimate daughter, kept the hostess in countenance. Mme. d'Agoult was at this phase of her life a tall, grand looking old woman, with the air of a sybil. Her hair was white as snow, and turned over a roll in her forehead. She wore loose flowing garments that draped her majestically. Her poses were fine; but they were too impressive for a drawing room. Her conversation was of an analogous character. Mme. d'Agoult took the pseudonym of Daniel Stern in writing an autobiography, which was in great vogue eight or nine years ago. She was a superlatively vain and proud woman. Her apartments, when first entered, gave the visitor the impression that he was in a fine Art gallery; but, when he examined the statues, busts, statuettes and pictures, he found they were all of one person, the lady of the house.

Mme. Louise Colet was a native of Aix in Provence, and descended from the de Vergenne family. She married a musician at the age of fifteen, and left him before the honeymoon was over. When she came to Paris, she was introduced by M. Thiers to M. Guizot, who introduced her to Mme. de Recamier who, taking a fancy to her, invited her to the celebrated soirees in the Abbaye aux Bois. There the too ardent young Provencale poetess met Victor Cousin, of whom she made a conquest. Her liaison with him being made a subject of a satirical paper by M. Alphonso Karr in *Les Geupes*, Madame Colet laid in wait for the author, and stabbed him in the back with a kitchen knife. He refused to prosecute her, but he hung up in his cabinet of curiosities the weapon with which she had inflicted on him a flesh wound. Beneath it he wrote in large characters —"*donne par Mme Louise Colet—dans le dos*," Mme. Lonise Colet won four prizes for poems she wrote at the Academy Her prose, however, was better than her poetry, which was cold and stilted. There could be no more agreeable letter writer for a journal, except to those she wrote about. She had no respect for the privacy of her celebrated friends. Among the men whom she paraded in her amusing chatty, and very spiteful books, were Alfred de Musset, Babinet, Cousin, Count Cavone, Prosper Merimee, Rossi, the political economist, and St. Benoe. Mme Louise Colet was very near being killed on the Boulevart Montmarte on December 4, 1857, for crying in the face of the half-drunk Paborian troops Vive la Republique. Colonel Canrobert slashed at her with his sabre, and inflicted a deep wound on her shoulder."

WE ARE EXCEEDINGLY sorry to record the death of Babu Brojonath Dhur, which melancholy event took place on Monday last. At one time he was one of the most prosperous and influential men in the town, but fortune is inconstant. He however bore up his misfortunes with great fortitude. About two years ago he lost his only son, and he has at last succumbed to the blow. He was a good-natured, amiable, and benevolent man, and his loss is mourned by a large circle of relations and friends.

HIS EXCELLENCY the Viceroy has conferred the title of Bahadur, as a personal distinction, on Rai Kunhia Lal, Executive Engineer in the Punjab, for services rendered to Government, and the title of Khan Bahadur on four members of the Carnatic family.

ON THE 9TH MARCH in answer to Professor Fawcett, Lord George Hamilton, stated that no reply had been received from the Government of India to Lord Salisbury's now celebrated "rasping" despatch of the 11th November last. We believe the reply was sent in in the middle of February. We hope it will be laid before Parliament.

THURSDAY, 6TH APRIL.

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENTS are publishing thanks to the officers, who distinguished themselves by their exertions in making arrangements for the reception of H. R. H. the Prince of Wales. Sir John Strachey took the start and Sir Richard Temple has followed the example of his brother. In thanking Sir Stuart Hogg for his personal and unremitting efforts Sir Richard says that "the recognition which His Royal Highness was graciously pleased to make of those efforts in investing you with the dignity of Knighthood is the best possible proof of their entire success."

MR. LEWIS of Lewis's Theatrical Company, in taking leave at Bombay, made the following melancholy remarks :- "I am sorry to say now I am leaving off management that I should have made a bad impression in any part of the world ; but I have made several enemies here, and from what cause ?—simply because I have had a lot of young women placed under my care by their fathers and mothers, and I have tried to do my duty towards them, not allowing them to go out with any counter-jumper, or cad, and so forth, who may have thought proper to take them, (hisses, and a voice "hear, hear!") That is my great fault, and I would like to commit faults very day, sooner than let them go astray. (Cries of "turn him out," hisses and "hear, hear.") The *Bombay Gazette* calls this address "vulgarly impertinent and insulting." Well may it say so !

A STRANGE FACT came to light at the last meeting of the Calcutta Justices. The Chairman called the attention of the meeting to a letter from Government, inquiring how the Justices proposed that the allowance of Mr. Lambert, Deputy Commissioner of Police, should be met during the period of his recent privilege leave, and a resolution thereon by General Committee. He said that this matter, or rather the principle involved in it, was brought before the Justices in meeting in July 1872, upon which the question was referred to the Finance Committee, and they dissented from the then Chairman, and were of opinion that the expenditure ought to be met from the Police charges borne by Government. The proceedings of the Committee were laid before the Justices in meeting, where they were adopted. However, the opinion then arrived at was not sent to Government. Whose fault was this ? Of course we forget that the Chairman is not the servant of the Corporation, and the then officiating incumbent was not therefore bound to communicate the order of the Justices to Government !

IT IS STRANGE that the Supreme Council should have burked the protests of Members of the Bombay Government and other high officers against the Bombay Revenue Jurisdiction Bill. A member of the Bombay Government thus writes privately to our contemporary of the *Statesman* : "I have always been opposed to the Bill, and have sent in a strong Minute against it." To say the least the Government has not been above-board in passing this Bill.

HIS HIGHNESS the Maharajah of Vizianagram has arrived at Calcutta under a salute of 13 guns.

A PAPER ON METEOROLOGY in India in relation to Cholera, was read bsfore the Meteorological Society, by Colonel J. Puckle. The author laid before the Society some facts in connexion with several serious outbreaks of cholera in different parts of the Mysore country during the last fifteen years, and drew attention to the similarity of the abnormal meteorological conditions that existed on each occasion. Failure of the usual rainfall at the proper time and abnormally high and harsh temperature have been concurrent with several attacks in Mysore and Southern India. At such times the open reservoirs or lakes and wells are much below the usual springs level, and any contamination received at such a time is obviously much less diluted, and more harmful. The author then gave an account of several attacks that came under his own personal knowledge, which showed beyond doubt that the disease had been arrested by change of air and surroundings and that ordinary sanitary practice has prevented a possible outbreak.

FRIDAY, 7TH APRIL.

A CORRESPONDENT from Chinsurah has furnished us with the proceedings of a Meeting held at the Hall of the Hooghly College on Thursday the 30th ultimo to determine upon a fitting memorial in honor of the late Mr. Thwaytes, Principal of the Hooghly College. We regret we cannot insert the report *in extenso* for want of space, but we give an abstract of it. The meeting was numerously attended. Sir W. Hersahel, the Magistrate and Collector of Hooghly, was in the chair and the speakers and movers of the resolutions were Babu Bhoodeb Mookerjea, Inspector of Schools, Babu Brindabun Chunder Mundole, Babu Kissory Lal Haldar B. A. Babu Essan Chunder Mitter, Government Pleader Professor Rowe and Babu Mohendra Chundra Mitra M. A. B. L. Babu Bhoodeb Mookerjea, Inspector of Schools dwelt on the good qualities of the late Principal especially on his merit of being a first rate education. Babu Kissory Lal Haldar in supporting Babu Bhoodeb's resolution bore witness to the large circle over which Mr. Thwaytes' influence extended and alluding to his pupils who have distinguished themselves in their career in life mentioned the name of the late Hon'ble Dwarka Nath Mittre who was one of his former pupils. Babu Essan Chunder Mitter in moving the resolution that the memorial should take the form of scholarship said that he could not give better proof of Mr. Thwaytes' influence than by saying that his name had penetrated into the zenanas and was a household word in many a family in the district. Professor Rowe in seconding the above resolution dwelt on Mr. Thwaytes' straight-forward character and the scrupulous fairness and considerate kindness in all his dealings. Babu Mahendra Chunder Mitter expressed a wish to see a portrait of the late Principal in the College Hall to remind them of a true Englishman to whom so many of them were bound by intellectual and moral ties.

The resolution for a scholarship to be called the Thwaytes' scholarship to be attached to the Hoogly College was carried and a large sum was immediately subscribed and arrangements were made for giving others an opportunity of supporting the movement.

THE FOLLOWING are the results of the last University examination in Madras. There was one candidate for the M A. degree, three candidates passed the degree of B C. E., eight passed the degree of B. L., sixty seven candidates passed the B. A. degree—two in the first, 37 in the 2nd, and 28 in the third class.

HIS GRACE the Duke of Buckingham visited the large Parthsarthy pagoda at Triplicane. His Grace inspected all the silver and golden images in the temple. The Hon'ble Mr. Gajapathi Row was present.

A NICE article, transparent and impervious to grease, is obtained by soaking good paper in an aqueous solution of shellac in borax. It resembles parchment paper in some respects. If the aqueous solution is coloured with aneline colours, very handsome papers for wrapping fancy goods and making wax flowers may be made.

THE ATTENTION of the Government of India has been called to the hardships which British subjects, who are pilgrims to Mecca, suffer while *en route* to the Prophet's shrine and they suggest that the Persian and Turkish Governments should be moved to furnish these pilgrims with a military escort to protect them from the attacks of robbers. The suggestion is that the British Consuls at Jeddah and Bushire should be authorized to give pilgrims passes, and that they should be despatched on their pilgrimage in batches, each batch forming a khafila, which would be escorted by a small body of troops.

SOME curious experiments in relation to the effects of solar rays on lunatics have been tried by Dr. Ponza, Director of the Lunatic Asylum at Alexandria, in Piedmont. He confined some of his patients in rooms painted in different colors, and furnished with windows of colored glass, and kept them there under observation. A morbid taciturn patient became "cheerful and talkative after a visit of three hours to the red chamber, and another maniac, who refused all food, asked for some after having been subject for twenty-four hours to the action of the same color. A violent maniac was "subdued to calmness" under the influence of the blue chamber, its color being supposed to act on the optic nerve, and cause a sort of oppression. But the beneficial working of the violet chamber exceeds that of all others.

SATURDAY, 8TH APRIL.

THE INDU-PRAKASH exhorts the Bombay community to protest against the Presidency Magistrates' Bill. It says :

"The citizens of Calcutta are stirring themselves in the matter, and a public meeting was held on 26th ultimo, and we are glad to learn that the British Indian Association having asked that the Bill may be postponed till the next session of the Council to give them time for consideration, it has been so postponed. The seeming apathy of our people can be explained in one way. A mass of people cannot move in a constitutional way except through a body of representatives. Our representative bodies have no life in them and we could expect nothing more than what we actually see. We are however glad to learn that it is intended to send a memorial from our city to the Viceroy."

We hope they will take time by the forelock.

WE HAVE RECEIVED the first number of a weekly from Bombay entitled the *Indian Spectator*. The opening address makes some unnecessary and undignified personal allusions ; otherwise the paper is fairly written.

A PUBLIC MEETING was held at Bhowanipore to protest against the Dramatic Performances Bill and the Bengal Municipal Bill. We give the Resolutions below :

Dramatic Performances Bill.

I That this meeting is of opinion that the Ordinance of February 20th, 1876, was an exercise of the extraordinary powers of the Viceroy not called for by the exigencies of the case ; and that the production of a single farce condemned by the general sense of the community, on the boards of a single theatre in one of the Presidency Towns, does not justify the introduction of a stringent measure regulating the stage throughout British India.

II That the Dramatic Performances Bill, now before the Imperial Legislature, is objectionable inasmuch as—

(*a*) It makes no distinction between public and private theatres.

(*b*) There is no critical organisation capable of doing justice to the difficult task of conscientious censorship.

(*c*) The reasons for the prohibition of plays are too general.

(*d*) The penalties are too severe and all-embracing.

(*e*) Summary adjudication by Magistrates, unassisted by a jury, may lead often to miscarriage of justice.

(*f*) There is no necessity in this country to grant the power of licensing theatres

Bengal Municipal Bill.

I That this meeting records its dissatisfaction with the present system for the administration of municipal affairs in the Suburbs of Calcutta, there being no bond of union between those who administer the Municipal Funds and those who have to find the same ; and observes with anxiety the expansion of

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the objects of municipal expenditure and the studied exclusion of the Imperial and Provincial Funds from due liability for the same

II That this meeting believes that the introduction of a popular elected element in Municipalities will lead to a more economical and impartial administration of Municipal Funds, and deprecates, on principle, any increase of taxation, however slight or indirect, till the proposed remedy has been tried.

III That this meeting protest against any grant or aid from Municipal Funds to Educational Institutions where religious education is directly or indirectly compulsory.

The Bengal Municipal Bill has not received that attention from the community which it ought to have received. It is substantially Sir George Campbell's Bill—perhaps worse.

THE INDIAN DAILY NEWS learns from the new Doomesday Book that Lord Northbrook is the owner in England of 9,291 acres, with a gross rental of £11,034. The Duke of Buckingham and Chandos is happy in the possession of 10,481 acres, the gross rental of which is £18,070; Lord Salisbury of 17,556 acres, with a rental of £22,637; Dhuleep Sing of 14,615 acres, with a rental of £4,755.

WE TAKE the following from the *Statesman*:

"In defiance of the Law—A disagreement took place the other day between the bailiffs of the Calcutta Small Cause Court and Sir Stuart Hogg regarding the seizure of certain property in the Municipal Market, which clearly shows the danger of having the two offices of Chairman of the Municipality and Commissioner of Police distinct from one another. A native had obtained a decree against a shopkeeper in the Municipal Market in the Calcutta Small Cause Court. He took out execution and seized certain property of the defendant's in his shop at the market. The seizing officer was opposed, and he applied to the police for assistance; but as the bailiff was opposed by order of the Commissioner of Police, whose authority was supreme, the Police could give no assistance. The bailiff reported the matter to Mr Thomas Jones, the Fifth Judge, who ordered the bailiff to do his duty. The bailiff then applied to Mr Mylan, the Superintendent of Police who was at first at a loss what to do. He referred the bailiff to the inspector of the thanah in which the market is situated. On this being done, Inspector Arratoon, accompanied the bailiff to the shop in the Municipal Market, and on being told that the bailiff was not allowed to take the property by order of Sir Stuart Hogg, the inspector then called on Sir Stuart, who said that rent was due by the owner of the shop to the Municipality, and unless the same was paid, the property could not be removed.

Here is another example of the mischief of the union of the offices of the Chairman of the Justices and Commissioner of Police in the hands of the same person.

THE RYOTS of the North-West, says the *Friend of India* have hit upon a new method of drawing attention to their grievances. On Sunday last, a "deputation" of some thousands of them, mostly belonging to the Trans-Gangetic tehsils of the Allahabad district, and to Hundia, waited —not, apparently, by appointment—upon Sir John Strachey at Government House, and made formal complaint of the recent enhancement of their rents. It appears that government has lately increased the land-tax of the pergunnahs from which these poor people came. The zemindars have as usual tried to recoup themselves by squeezing more money out of them than they can pay—and the ryots have in self-defence formed themselves into an agricultural union, elected officers, collected funds, agreed amongst themselves not to plant sugarcane, and even threatened to burn any planted by non-unionists, in some instances going so far as to put their threat into execution. Of course the ryots gained nothing by the move. But the demonstration is sure to tell in the end.

WE TAKE from the morning papers the following telegrams of the week:

London, 31*st March*. The Duke of Richmond, in moving the second reading of the Queen's Titles' Bill, said he believed the title of Empress of India would be acceptable to the people of India; and pointed out that its assumption had been favored by the public press, until the question had been brought within the arena of party conflict.

The Duke of Somerset opposed the title bill in the sense of the meaning if anything of Military power, and ridiculed the arguments put forward by Mr. Disraeli, that it was expedient on account of the approach of Russia to the Indian frontier.

Lord Napier of Ettrick thought it was desirable, as a matter of policy, that Her Majesty should assume some title distinctly marking her connection with India, and manifesting to its peoples and princes that their destiny is indissolubly united with the Crown and Empire of England.

Earl Grey urged the adoption of some other title; as he thought that the new title of Empress would overshadow the old title of Queen.

Lord Lawrence advocated a native title.

Earl Granville repudiated the statement, that the opposition given to the Bill was due to party motives, and declared that no evidence had been adduced to show that the people of India were either for or against it. The dignity of the name of Queen would, he thought, be tarnished by the new addition. Lord Salisbury said the Bill was proposed on Indian grounds, and it was necessary to choose a title designating one ruling over rulers. He disagreed with the statement that the title would not be acceptable to the people of India, and sharply censured the Duke of Somerset for attributing to the Bill the object of enabling the Royal Family of England to take precedence in the Courts of Europe.

Earl Kimberley urged the acceptance of Lord Shaftesbury's motion for an address, praying Her Majesty to assume a title more in accordance with the English spirit.

The Lord Chancellor said that it was intended generally and ordinarily that the use of the Indian title should be confined to India, but that it would be necessary to employ it in the legal and formal documents when describing the full titles of the Queen. Lord Shaftesbury's motion was fixed for Monday next.

1st April.—There was a panic in London yesterday, the partial cause of which was unfounded—rumours of a change in the Eastern policy of Russia, and partly to a rumour of a difference between Count Andrassy and Count de Novikow, the Russian Ambassador at Vienna. The panic has subsided.

In the House of Commons last night Mr. Disraeli announced that at the request of the Khedive the Hon'ble Mr. Cave's report on the finances of Egypt will shortly be published.

Obituary.—Holt Mackenzie, privy Councillor.

3rd April. The Chancellor of the Exchequer made his annual financial statement this evening. The public revenue for 1875 was £77,125,000, and the expenditure £76 375 000 The estimated revenue for 1876 is £77,20,5000, and the estimated expenditure £78,000,000. Sir Stafford Northcote recommends the increase of a penny in the income tax, exempting incomes that are under £150, and he would allow a deduction of 120 from incomes under £400. The Chancellor estimates that this will give a surplus of £375,000. The Hon'ble Mr. Cave's report has been printed and distributed. It states that the finances of Egypt are in critical state; everything is pledged; but if the floating debt became converted, and the revenues properly managed, there would be sufficient to meet all charges. After a long debate this evening, Lord Shaftesbury's motion for an address to the Crown was rejected by 137 against 91 votes and the Titles' Bill passed into Committee.

WE HAVE RECEIVED a long letter on the Baroda policy of Lord Northbrook. Of course there are two opinions on the subject, and we are quite willing to see a fair expression of both. We are sorry that we cannot publish the letter for want of space.

WE ARE REQUESTED to mention that a new Kaviraj of great learning and skill, named Babu Dwarkanath Sen has arrived on this city with a view to practice. His address is No. 40 Pathuriaghatta Street.

WE HAVE to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the under-mentioned publications: 1. Report on the Land Revenue administration of the Lower Provinces for 1874-75. 2. Report on the Financial Results of the Excise administration in the Lower Provinces for 1874-75. 3. Report on the Judicial Administration of the Central Province's for 1875. 4. Report of the Chowadanga Charitable Dispensary. 5. The Loyal Hours. BY Gourchurn Dutt, author of School-Hours.

The Hindoo Patriot.

MONDAY, APRIL 10, 1876.

THE MEETING IN HONOR OF LORD NORTHBROOK.

LAST SATURDAY'S meeting at the Town Hall in honor of Lord Northbrook was a great success. About a thousand persons chiefly natives were present, among whom were the heads of all classes of the community. There were also present His Highness the Maharaja of Benares, His Highness the Maharaja of Viziniagram, and the Maharaja and Maharaj Kumar of Bettiah. The Hon'ble Mr. Bullen Smith, the Sheriff, opened the meeting by reading the Requisition. He then moved that His Honor the Lieutenant Governor take the chair. Mr. Gubboy seconded the motion. Sir Richard Temple made a few brief remarks. He said that his official position prevented him from speaking on the several matters, which formed the subjects of the Resolutions, and although he did not abandon the opinions which he had entertained on some of these questions, still he had the highest respect and admiration for the general administration of Lord Northbrook, and had much pleasure as a citizen in joining this demonstration. The first Resolution, affirming the general opinion on the administration of Lord Northbrook, was moved by Raja Romanath Tagore Bahadur C. S. I., seconded by the Chief Justice, and supported by His Highness the Maharaja of Viziniagram, and by the Hon'ble Raja Narendra Krishna Bahadur. The second Resolution voting a statue was moved by Dr. Rajendralala Mitra, seconded by Raja Joteendra Mohun Tagore, and supported by Raja Siva Persad C.S.I. on behalf of His Highness the Maharaja of Benares, who spoke the sentiments of the people of Northern India. The third Resolution proposing the Address was moved by Babu Degumber Mitter C.S.I. and seconded by the Hon'ble Mr. Inglis C.S.I. The fourth Resolution appointing a Deputation for the presentation of the Address was proposed by the Hon'ble J. R. Bullen Smith and seconded by Raja Suttyanund Ghosal. The fifth Resolution appointing a Committee was moved by Mr. Jennings, and seconded by Moulvi Abdul Lutief Khan Bahadur. The sixth Resolution, inviting the communities the different provinces, was moved by Mr. Manickjee Rustomjee, and seconded by Babu Keshub Chunder Sen. Raja Komul Krishna Bahadur moved a vote of thanks to His Honor the Lieutenant Governor for his able conduct in the Chair. The meeting commenced at 4 P. M. and ended at 6-30 P. M.

The following address was adopted at the meeting:

To

HIS EXCELLENCY THE RIGHT HON'BLE
THOMAS GEORGE BARING,
BARON NORTHBROOK OF
STRATION, G..M.S.I.,
Viceroy and Governor General of India.

MY LORD,

WE, the undersigned inhabitants of Calcutta and its vicinity, desire to approach your Lordship, on the eve of your departure, with this address expressive of our sincere and heartfelt regret on your resigning the Government of this country, and of our high sense of your eminent public services as the Viceroy and Governor General of India.

Since the transfer of the Government of this country from the Hon'ble the East India Company to the Crown the course of affairs has been marked with many changes and innovations, leading to a wide-spread desire for rest: this rest Your Lordship has during your four years' administration afforded to the great relief and satisfaction of the people.

The administration of the finances rightly engaged Your Lordship's first consideration. Strict economy continued to be enforced; a healthy equilibrium between income and expenditure was maintained; the impetus given to material progress under past administrations by the execution of works of public utility was continued without recourse to additional taxations of raising loans even to the amount spent within the last four years on public works extraordinary; substantial relief was afforded to the people by the remission of both imperial and local taxation; the income tax, originaly introduced as a war tax, and as a means of ordinary revenue utterly unsuited to the circumstances of this country, was allowed to expire, evoking the liveliest satisfaction and gratitude throughout the country; the non-agricultural cess was withdrawn in Bombay; the general house-tax was abandoned in Madras, the proposed increase of municipal taxation in Bengal was disallowed; the Pandari tax was reduced in the Central Provinces; the Southern Customs line was abolished, and thus public burthens on all classes of the community in all parts of the empire were judiciously lessened without in the slightest degree impairing the strength and efficiency of the public exchequer.

In further developement of the principles of your financial administration Your Lordship, at the closing period of your reign, announced an enlightened and liberal commercial policy by a revision of the tariff duties, dictated by the highest consideration for the best interests of India. It will relieve the springs of industry, stimulate trade and the employment of capital, open a wider market for the products of India, and bless the tillers of the soil with new incentives to exertion. In carrying out this policy Your Lordship has not listened to the cries of any party, however powerful, and the high conscientiousness and single-minded zeal, which have characterized Your Lordship's action on the subject, have justly called forth the respect and admiration of all right-thinking men.

During Your Lordship's administration peace has reigned from one end of the empire to the other. In the discharge of your solemn and sacred trust it was Your Lordship's duty to enter into a diplomatic correspondence with the Court of Ava in consequence of a boundary dispute, and to interfere with the internal administration of the Native State of Baroda. In the one case by the maintenance of a moderate though firm policy the calamity of a war was averted. As regards the other, although considerable difference of opinion exists as to the means adopted for the accomplishment of the object aimed at there is a consensus of opinion as to the purity of the intentions of Your Lordship's Government, and those intentions were amply vindicated by the restoration of the Native Raj, and the establishment of a Native administration for the management of the State.

A dire calamity befall the Bengal Provinces owing to the failure of the munsoon rains in 1873. Millions of people were threatened with imminent death from want of food Your Lordship readily recognised the sovereign's duty to save them from starvation, by stimulating and facilitating supplies of food, by providing labor for those who were able to work, and by maintaining, at the expenses of the State, those who could neither work nor obtain sustenance by any other means The success of these benevolent measures was complete, and there was achieved a moral victory, which will always shine conspicuously in the pages of history, and which will always be cherished in grateful remembrance by the people of this country.

These have been some of the most prominent measures of Your Lordship's rule But it is the general spirit of Your Lordship's administration which calls forth the highest praise—a spirit quite in unison with the benign sentiments of our Gracious Sovereign contained in Her memorable Royal Proclamation—a spirit enlightened, liberal and sympathizing looking with an equal eye upon all classes of H. M's subjects, without distinction of race, colour or creed, and tempering justice with moderation and mercy

In your native country your Lordship will doubtless pursue your career of public usefulness, and, though far away from this land, think at times kindly of the millions whom you have once governed, and lend a tongue to their dumb voice May the Disposer of All Events bless you with a safe voyage home, and health and happiness!

In conclusion we desire to state that the community of this city have at a public meeting, resolved to erect a Statue as a memorial of Your Lordship's wise and beneficent administration, and we venture to express a hope that when the time comes for us to solicit Your Lordship to sit for the Statue to some competent artist in England, Your Lordship will do us the kindness to comply with our request.

The Address will be presented by a Deputation on Wednesday next the 12th instant at 11 A. M. The Hon'ble Mr. Bell and Raja Joteendra Mohun Tagore Bahadur were elected Joint Secretaries to the Committee.

The Chairman announced three handsome subscriptions to the meeting: His Highness the Maharaja of Benares Rs. 7000, His Highness the Maharaja of Vizianagram Rs. 7000, and the Maharaja of Bettiah Rs. 3500.

There was however one *contretemps* which we regret much. Some members of the Indian League sought to neutralize the object of the meeting by bringing forward an amendment, which had the effect of a vote of censure upon Lord Northbrook. Babu Manomoth Mullick, a newly arrived Barrister-at-law, was their spokesman. Sir Richard Temple was firm and rightly refused to put the amendment before the meeting. The object of the meeting was to do honor to Lord Northbrook, and not to pass a vote of censure upon him. The meeting was quite indignant at the attitude assumed by these young men and refused to hear them. Mr. Bell said that the object of the meeting being well known it was not regular to move a vote of censure there. The Rev. Dr K. M. Banerjea, who perhaps saw how his own position as President of the League was about to be compromised by the conduct of these Leaguers, proposed the best solution of the difficulty. He suggested that if the meeting was disposed to hear them, they should be heard, and that vote should be taken upon that point. There was at once a cry of "wont hear! wont hear!" The Chairman accepted the suggestion of Dr. Banerjea and put the question as to whether the meeting was disposed to hear those, who proposed the amendment. There were shouts of "no! no!", and all persons present raised their hands against the amendment being put except ten, who we are informed were as follows:

Babu Shambu Chunder Mookerjee,—*Editor of Mookerjee's Magazine, and late Provisional President of the Indian League.*
" Jodunath Ghose,—*Head Master, Seal's Free College, and League orator.*
" Monomath Mullick,—*Barrister-at-law*
" Probode Chunder Mullick,—*Brother to above.*
" Hemchunder Mullick, Do. Do.
" Jogesh Chunder Dutt,—*Joint Secretary to the Indian League.*
" Devendra Dutt.
" Upendra Chunder Dutt.
" Naresh Chunder Dutt.
" Bhanu Chunder Dutt.
} *Wellington Square Dutt Family.*

As soon as the vote was taken, there were cries of "turn them out! drive them out!" and hisses all round, and the ten gentlemen then left the hall.

As we have said above we deeply regret this *contretemps*. We regret the more that the attack upon Lord Northbrook came from our own countrymen, aye, educated countrymen, though the meeting vindicated the sense of the nation by repudiating these malcontents. Babu Keshub Chunder Sen did right by expressing his strong disapprobation of their conduct and faithfully representing the national feeling.

The speakers generally acquitted themselves well. All of them paid glowing tributes of praise to Lord Northbrook. There was however one omission in the speeches delivered—sufficient stress was not laid upon the bold front presented by Lord Northbrook to Manchester. Raja Narendra Krishna alone made a fitting allusion to it.

THE DEBATE ON THE ROYAL TITLES BILL.

WE in India, we confess, do not fully appreciate the force of reasoning addressed in Parliament against the Bill authorizing Queen Victoria to assume the title of Empress of India. It is true that the title of Queen is associated in the minds of Englishmen with historic associations of which they are justly proud, but the assumption of the title of Empress of India is meant as a compliment to the princes and people of India. Her Majesty's new title will be in this wise: "Victoria, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland Queen, Defender of the faith, and Empress of India." Objection was taken to the new title on the ground that it would be a reflection upon the colonies. But Mr. Disreali replied: "The condition of India and the condition of the Colonies have no similarity. (Hear, hear.) In the Colonies you have, first of all, a fluctuating population—a man is member of Parliament, it may be, for Melbourne this year, and next year he is member of Parliament for Westminster. A colonist finds a nugget, or he fleeces a thousand flocks (Much laughter.) He makes a fortune, he returns to England, he buys an estate, he becomes a magistrate, he represents Majesty, he becomes High Sheriff, he has a magnificent house near Hyde-park, he goes to court, to Levees, to Drawing Rooms, he has an opportunity of plighting his troth personally to his Sovereign, he is in frequent and direct communication with her. But that is not the case with the inhabitant of India. It is not without consideration, it is not without the utmost care, it is not until after the deepest thought that we have felt it our duty to introduce this Bill into Parliament. It is desired in India. (Cheers.) It is anxiously expected. (Renewed cheers.) The Princes and nations of India, unless we are deceived and we have omitted no means by which we could obtain information and form opinions—look to it with the utmost interest. They know exactly what it means, though there may be some in this House who do not (Cheers.)" They know what it means, and they know that what it means is what they wish. (Cheers.) Of course the princes and people of India will feel grateful, if Her Majesty associates with her titles the name of their country, but we are not aware of any enquiry made as to their wishes on the subject. These wishes we admit have been expressed in a variety of ways before the question was mooted in England, we mean in public prints and public addresses, but we do not know whether any, official enquiry has been made on the subject. There was, however, one point raised in the debate by Mr. Gladstone, which was worthy of the highest consideration. He said:

He has introduced to us a Bill which states that an Act of Her Majesty enacted "that the government of India, hitherto vested in the East India Company in trust for Her Majesty, should become vested in Her Majesty, and that India should thenceforward be governed by and in the name of Her Majesty." I am not now speaking of the word "Empress," but of India, and I wish to bring into view a serious question, and a question wholly unexplained to this moment, which may be involved in any statutory establishment of the name of India in the title of the Sovereign. If I read the Act for the Government of India correctly, the recital in the preamble of this Bill is inaccurate. (Hear, hear.) As I read it, it is not true that the government of India has been vested in Her Majesty, and it is not true that it has been enacted that "India thenceforward shall be governed by and in the name of Her Majesty." Now, this is a matter of very considerable delicacy and importance. The Act for the Government of India provides, in the first clause, that "the government of the territories now in the possession or under the government of the East India Company, and all powers in relation to the government, vested in or exercised by the said Government in trust for Her Majesty, shall cease to be vested in or exercised by the said Company, and all territories in the possession or under the government of the said company, and all rights vested in or which may have been exercised by the said Company in relation to any territories, shall become vested in Her Majesty, and exercised in her name." That is the great operative part of the clause. It is clear that the operative part of it does not embrace the entire country of India. (Oh, oh!) Let the hon. gentleman who disposes so easily of this question point out to me a legislative or a judicial decision, and I shall then pay the greatest respect to what he says, but for the present I must be content to proceed on my way without the advantage of his approval or support. (Laughter.) The operative part of the clause is carefully limited to the countries which had been held in trust for Her Majesty by the East India Company. The clause ends by saying "and for the purposes of this Act India shall mean the territories vested in Her Majesty aforesaid, and all territories which may become vested in Her Majesty by the aforesaid." I may be wrong, but it is clear that this was the draughtsman's expedient, as it was impossible to go on reciting the long and cumbrous description which I have read—namely, the description of these territories. It is plain, therefore, that the government of India—that is, the entire India—never has yet, by statue, been vested in Her Majesty; but that which has been vested is the government of the countries which were held in trust for Her Majesty by the East India Company. (Cheers.) It is as far as possible from being a question merely verbal; the speech of my hon friend who has just sat down indicates that it is no verbal quibble. His desire is that Her Majesty shall assume some title in respect of India which shall show that she has assumed in full the position and powers hitherto held by her.

Sir G. CAMPBELL,—As the representative of the nation.

Mr. GLADSTONE.—No doubt my hon. friend is too much of a Constitutional member to leave out that qualification. If I understand him aright, he distinctly assures us that the supremacy of the Great Mogul extended over all the Native Princes in India, within the limit of the dominion which we call India. (Hear, hear.) What I want to know is, has that supremacy, that dominion, ever been, legislatively or even judicially, up to the present moment, assumed either by the East India Company or by the Queen? I admit we have very great varieties of relations with the Native States, that in some cases any independence they possess is nothing more than a nominal independence, that in some cases our power has been obtained by treaty; but I may point out to the House that in the exercise of our power in India—that vast and curiously constructed fabric of which we are stewards, and which it is our duty to maintain so long as any obligation connected with that power remains yet to be fulfilled—we are under the most solemn obligation to proceed with caution, circumspection, a strict regard to principles of law, and to the lessons of history. Whether my principle be right or not in the allegation made respecting a former Sovereign of India, I am under the belief that to this moment there are important Princes and States in India over which we have never assumed dominion, whatever may have been our superiority of strength. We are now going by Act of Parliament to assume that dominion, the possible consequences of which no men can foresee; and when the right hon. gentleman says that the Princes of India desire this change to be made, does he mean to assure us—and if he does I shall require distinct evidence in support of it—that the Princes of India who hitherto have enjoined political supremacy desire to surrender it through the medium of this Bill. The burden of proof lies with Her Majesty's Government on this subject. The right hon. gentleman is going to advise the Queen to become Empress of India. I raise the question, what is India? I have said that the dominion now vested in Her Majesty is limited to the territories vested in the East India Company. I ask whether the supremacy of certain important Native States in India ever was vested in the Company or whether it was not. We are bound to ask the right hon. gentleman, and I think he is bound to answer the question through the medium of the best legal authorities, whether this supremacy is so vested or not, and whether he can assure us upon his responsibility that no political change in the condition of the Native Princes of India will be effected by this Bill. If there is a political change effected, I do not hesitate to say I don't think it would be possible to offer too determined an opposition to the proposal of the Government. I should say that it would be an act of temerity almost approaching insanity, for any purpose such as has been described, were we, the British Parliament, to consent to effect, off hand, a change in the political *status* of the Sovereigns of India, with respect to whose wishes we are, at least, in a state of ignorance. (Hear, hear)

This was by far the most important constitutional question raised in connection with the Bill, and it was not satisfactorily answered by the Ministry. The Prime Minister attempted no answer. The only answer given was that from the Chancellor of the Exchequer who remarked:

"My right hon. friend said,—"Let us be well assured that no change is intended in the political *status* of the Princes of India." But does my hon. friend really think it is necessary seriously to put such a question as that? (Hear, hear.) If he can allow such a suspicion to enter his head he had better give up his words of distrust, adopt the more candid language of the hon. member for Banbury, and speak of prejudice. There may be something which reveals itself to my right hon. friend, but which does not reveal itself to ordinary minds; but for my part I am wholly unable to see how the addition to Her Majesty's style and titles of a title which is to mark her as being specially connected with India can in any way whatever affect the political *status* of Indian Princes. (Cheers.). The proclamation which Her Most Gracious Majesty was pleased to issue when she assumed the direct government of India is still in force, and by that proclamation and by the law of the land will the Government of India continue to be governed. (Renewed cheers.)"

We submit this is not a sufficient answer. But at the same time we admit that the status of the Native Princes cannot be altered by the new title. The paramountcy of Britain in India is supreme, and the fact cannot be altered by any law. Only we are to consider whether the treaty-rights of the Native Princes will be in any way affected by the assumption of the new title by Her Majesty. In the Royal Proclamation Her Majesty has declared that those rights shall be respected, and that Proclamation is the political character of the Princes and people of India. We hope the new titles Bill will not in any way affect that Proclamation, and give the Queen's Government any new right of interference with the Native States. This is a question for the constitutional lawyer to answer, and we wish the Prime Minister had set at rest the doubts raised by Mr. Gladstone. Perhaps it would have been more assuring if the terms of the Proclamation had been embodied in the Titles Bill.

There was a feeling in the House that by the assumption of the new title the Queen would succeed to the status of the Great Mogul, and the latter, it was held, was clothed with evil associations. There was only one member, who had the courage to vindicate the Great Mogul—it was Sir George Campbell. Sir George said: "He had created a good deal of hilarity on a former evening when he gave it as his opinion that in taking the step she was now advised to take it would be well that Her Majesty should mark that she succeeded of right as well as in fact to the position of the Great Mogul (laughter), and the hon. member for Hackney, instead of being amused by that suggestion, then lectured him very severely for making it, describing the Great Moguls as a fierce and barbarous conqueror and oppressor. Now, he said that the memory of the Great Mogul was not one that excited either laughter or hatred in India. The Mogul Empire, judged by any fair standard, was a great and in many respects a glorious Empire. It was remarkable for religious toleration to a degree which certainly could not be matched in Europe at the same period; while under it the poor were protected from the rich and the grasping in a way that was not surpassed under our rule. There were, therefore, many reminiscences of the Empire which made its memory great in India." Sir George was quite right. Much as we appreciate the blessings of British rule in India, and they are manifold, there is one point in which it

has not yet succeeded in approaching Mogul rule —we mean in that complete identification of the rulers with the ruled. There was some pleasant banter about Indian opinion on the subject of the new title. Sir Stafford Northcote said :

Well, it is from an Indian point of view that the question ought to be regarded, and if hon. members would only regard it from that point of view we should hear much less of these feelings of misgiving and mistrust, and statements about the character of the Emperor of this country and of another, all the examples being drawn from European history. (Cheers.) The people of India have already expressed their opinion on the subject. The hon. gentleman (Sir G. Campbell), who knows India well, spoke in a different tone from the right hon gentleman opposite as to the opinions of the people of India.

Sir G. CAMPBELL.—I spoke of the Princes and some of the people of India. (Hear, hear.)

The Chancellor of the Exchequer.—I admit that we have not attempted a *plebiscite* in India to collect the opinions of the people of their ; but we are not without some evidence of their feeling. In the first place, the title of Empress has been used. On August 18, 1873, Lord Northbrook, in writing to the Ameer of Yarkand, described the Queen in this manner :—"Mr. Forsyth," the Envoy sent on this occasion, "is also the bearer of a Royal letter from Her Majesty the Queen of India and the Empress of Hindoostan." (Hear, hear.)

Mr. Samuelson.—Will the right hon. gentleman have the kindness to inform the House whether Yarkand is in British India? ("Hear" and laughter.)

The Chancellor of the Exchequer.—No ; but Lord Northbrook was the Viceroy of the Queen, and it was in India and from India that he sent a letter bearing this title. (Hear, hear.) I have not searched all the Indian journals, but here is an extract from the *Friend of India*, dated December 12, 1873, referring to a fete given by the Talookdars of Oude, which, for the satisfaction of the hon. member for Banbury, is, I may state, in India. (A laugh.) At this fete the Talookdars presented to the Governor-General a loyal address, which thus concluded :—

"We would entreat your Excellency to assure Her Majesty, Empress of Hindoostan, of our eternal gratitude and constant loyalty. . . . In conclusion, we earnestly beg your Excellency to convey to our beloved Sovereign our long wished-for and fervent prayer that Her Majesty, in addition to her numerous high titles, be graciously pleased to be called in accordance with the immemorial usage of our country,"—, and I will not venture upon the Hindostanee word, but I told that it is equivalent to "Empress." (A cry of "Name" and laughter.) Well, it is true that I held for a short time the seals of the India Office, but I did not during that time learn the language of India. The word is "Shahanshah-i-Hind Zil-i-Subhani." (Laughter.) I am told, this word corresponds in the minds of the natives of India with the word "Empress." To me, however, it does not signify whether the words exactly correspond or not. The fact remains that there was, and is, a desire on the part of many of the natives and Princes of India that Her Majesty should take a title distinctively denoting that she holds a certain sway in India. (Hear, hear.)

Yes, the people of India would take it as a compliment to them that Her Majesty has been pleased to assume a title in connection with their country. Mr. Disreali said: "Let the people of India feel that there is a sympathetic chord between us and them ; and do not let Europe suppose for a moment that there are any in this House who are not deeply conscious of the importance of our Indian Empire. (Cheers.)" We say—amen!

THE TWO DISSENTS.

Two members of the Indian Council, Sir Erskine Perry and Sir Henry Montgomery have had the courage to record dissents from the despatch of the Secretary of State on the Tariff question. Sir Erskine Perry writes :

"I have already recorded my dissent to the telegram of the 30th of September last which stated disapprobation of Lord Northbrook's financial abolition reforms, and in substance enjoined the abolitionof import duties on cotton goods, and I did so on the ground that we had had no opportunity of considering the reasoning on which the Government of India proceeded. Now that I have read all the papers, I am decidedly of opinion that the course adopted by the Government of India was wise (with the exception, perhaps, of the new duty no raw cotton, which was a concession asked for by the Bombay Chamber of Commerce), and that the abolition of the import duties would inflict a loss on the revenue not easily separable. Their decision was the unanimous conclusion of all the Indian authorities, and was mainly in accordance with the recommendations of the Tariff Committee who had been considering the subject for months. Lord Northbrook has removed the export duties on articles of native produce, which have been long condemned by all economists. He has reduced import duties on a great variety of imports from 7½ per cent. to 5 per cent., and by a revaluation of the tariff he has afforded a relief to Manchester goods to the amount of 11 per cent. By those measures he has rendered, in my opinion, the greatest benefits to trade and commerce, and by the recuperative power of diminished import duties he has done this with probably no sacrifice hereafter of revenue. The abolition of the cotton duties involves an absolute loss of £800,000, which can only be supplied by the imposition of a new tax, and I see no other available but the income tax. It will not add to the popularity of this impost, which has proved both so obnoxious and so unproductive in India, to learn that its reintroduction is due to the orders of the Home Government. I am as strong an anti-protectionist as any of my colleagues, and feel very grateful to the Manchester school for its services to free trade, but I am clearly of opinion that the small duty of 5 per cent. which has been imposed for purposes of revenue, should be remitted until the contingency indicated in Lord Salisbury's despatch of July 15 last has arrived, viz, the state of the Indian finances permitting the operation.

Sir Henry Montgomery says :

I, too, recorded a dissent to the telegram of the 30th of September, on grounds similar to those now stated by Sir E. Perry. I concur in his remarks regarding Lord Northbook's budget arrangements, with the exception of the objections he raises to an income tax. I believe that with a liberal limit, excluding small incomes and a moderate percentage, all obnoxious and oppressive features could be removed, and the assessments solely made by the covenanted officers of the districts without addition to their establishments. The tax under these restrictions might not be very productive, but it would touch those who can well afford to contribute to the support of the Government, and who are now exempted.

To the above Lord Salisbury has recorded the following answer :

"I quite concur in the last paragraph of Sir Erskine Perry's dissent, With him I should object to the imposition of any new tax for the purpose of remitting the cotton duties; and I agree that remission should only take place in proportion as the state of the Indian finances permits that sacrifice of revenue. But these views appear to me to be expressed in the despatch from which he dissents. The paramount importance of not embarrassing the Indian revenue is carefully insisted on, and no suggestion of a new tax is made in any part of the despatch. The view which we desire to impress on the Indian Government is, that in applying the reduction of taxation, the cotton duties, as weighing on an article of first necessity to the inhabitants of Indian, as being contraty to the general policy of the Empire, and as being on political grounds highly inexpedient, stand first for remission. Our objection to the proceedings of August is, that having had money available for the reduction of import duties, the Indian Government selected for that purpose import duties, against which the objections above repeated do not lie."

Lord Salisbury is scarcely consistent. In his despatch he condemns the cotton duty because it is protective, but in the minute quoted above he objects to the reduction of the general import duty from 7½ to 5 per cent. Surely if free trade is the object of the State Secretary, then all classes of imported goods are entitled to equal treatment. Why should a preference be given to Manchester goods, and not to other goods, particularly when the latter were burdened with a less heavy duty? This is what we cannot understand. Then Lord Salisbury says that he does not want to impose a new tax to make good the loss of revenue from the repeal of the cotton duty. So far this declaration is satisfactory. But what is the meaning of his direction that the Government should fix a term of years within which this duty must be repealed. How can this be done? How can the Government know beforehand what will be the position of Indian finance in years to come? This order of the Indian Minister upsets the recognized rules of Government and throws an obligation upon the Indian administration, which it can ill discharge. We wish this point had been noticed by the dissenting members of the Indian Council. The attitude of Lord Salisbury on the Tariff question has filled the people of India with distress, because he is after all the arbiter of their destinies, and when he shews such an eagerness to favour Manchester, whom are they to look to for redress? The plea of philanthropy is mere moonshine, for the people do not feel the burden of which Lord Salisbury wishes to relieve them, not to say that it is extremely doubtful whether the repeal of the duty will really cheapen the poor man's clothes.

THE CALCUTTA MUNICIPAL BILL.

Two memorials were presented to His Excellency the Viceroy against the Calcutta Municipal Bill, one by the British Indian Association, and the other by the Trades' Association. We regret we cannot publish the two memorials *in extenso*, but we give below the most salient points in them. The British Indian Association state :

"That this bill in its passage though the Council called forth loud complaints and demonstrations, and that although several important improvements have been since introduced in it, still as a measure of self-government it is imperfect, inadequate, and ill-calculated to meet the legitimate aspirations and the just requirements of the people of Calcutta.

That it appears from the published proceedings of the last sitting of the Council that the bill was passed by the standing official majority of the Council, all the non-official members present voting against its passing.

That your memorialists fully subscribe to the reasons advanced by the non-official minority in their protest against the passing of the bill. For ready reference they transcribe below this protest :

1stly.—Because the bill, though it professes to concede self-government to the people of Calcutta, leaves the appointment and dismissal of the Chief Executive officer in the hands of Government, and thus destroys one of the most essential characteristics of self-Government.

Your Memorialists would add that the Chairman both in theory and practice is the head of the corporation both in its deliberative and executive branches. In the deliberative assembly the power of initiation practically rests with him ; from his position he leads the corporation, and as the executive he gives effect to the orders he obtains as the chief of the deliberative body. Upon him necessarily rests the whole well-being of the Municipality, and it is therefore of the highest importance that the Commissioners should be allowed to elect their own organ—to choose such a person to be their head in whom they might have the fullest confidence.

2ndly.—Because the bill sanctions the union of the functions of Chairman of the Commissioners and Commissioner of Police in the hands of one person, which is detrimental to efficiency, tends to divide responsibility, and opens a door to abuse of power. This centralization of authority is not required in the interests of the town, inasmuch as the experience gained in the sister capitals of Madras and Bombay shows that the separation of the two offices works there smoothly and satisfactorily.

3rdly.—Because the bill sanctions additional objects for Municipal expenditure, which, though optional, may be enforced at the discretion of the Commissioners, and which when enforced, are likely to result in additional taxation. The multiplication of Municipal expenditure on objects of secondary importance when the town is burdened with a heavy debt and its primary requirements cannot be satisfactorily met from want of funds, is much to be regretted.

By way of illustration of the above your memorialists desire to point out the following as additional purposes to which the Municipal Fund may be applied.

Public health.—Registration of marriages. There is no distinct provision in the law for it, but under the power given for making bye-laws, rules for the registration of marriages may be made, and such rules would be exceedingly repugnant to the social feelings of the Hindus and Mahomedans.

2. Bathing Ghats. These ghats are now maintained by the Port Commissioners, but under this provision the charge may be thrown on the Municipal Fund.

3. Gardens. There is a provision for the maintenance of squares and when gardens are added the Municipal Commissioners may not only throw the cost of existing gardens like the Eden Gardens but also new gardens upon the Municipal Fund.

Public Convenience.—Erection of public halls. The maintenance of existing halls should certainly be a charge upon the Municipal Fund, but considering that numerous legitimate requirements of the Municipality cannot be met for want of funds it cannot be reasonable to sanction expenditure for works, which are at best luxuries

(2) Police Stations and Lockups The Police Stations are now mostly rented, and the Government under the existing arrangement with the Justices pays one-fourth of the charge. If the Commissioners are empowered to build Police Stations and Lock-ups from the Municipal Fund, the practical effect of this measure would be a saving of this one-fourth charge to Government and consequent addition to the burthens upon the town.

(3) And generally all objects connected with the public safety, health and convenience. It is impossible to say what works may not be sanctioned under the unlimited discretion thus vested in the Commissioners ; practically the result will be the levy of the highest rates of taxation whenever the Commissioners will exercise their optional powers.

4. Because the Bill reduces the hours of the supply of water at high pressure from 17 to 3 during twenty four hours, though it enhances the water-rate from 5 to 6 per cent. The reduction of the water supply will place the people at considerable disadvantage and imperil the success of the drainage system That in addition to the foregoing reasons your Memorialists crave leave to submit the following :

I. The Bill prescribes a mode of preparation of voting lists throwing the onus of registration upon persons qualified to elect and to be elected which so far as Your Memorialists are aware is not recognized in the system of Municipal elections in the United Kingdom or in the Bombay Municipal Act or in the new Madras Municipal Bill and which is calculated to impede the working of the method of election.

II. The withdrawal from the Municipal Commissioners of an effective voice in the regulation of Police expenditure in modification of the existing

law, while they are made liable for the payment of the Police, is a retrograde movement and not in consonance with the principle of self-government, which it is the professed object of the Bill to foster.

III. The bill provides no check whatever on the appropriation of the Municipal fund by the Chairman of the Commissioners beyond the budget and supplementary votes; the latter votes being taken whenever the Chairman will consider it convenient to do so. The Bombay Municipal Act provides that no cheques are to be drawn by the Municipal Commissioner who is the chief executive of the local Municipality unless countersigned by two members of the Town Council.

IV. The Bill while providing for the sanitary improvement of blocks or bustees in which the poor reside gives powers to the Comissioners and the local Government to enforce improvements at a cost which it may be not unoften beyond the means of many owners to meet, or the sale proceeds of the entire block to cover. The improvements of these blocks is certainly desirable, but it would have been reasonable if the bill had provided that the cost of improvement shall not in any one case exceed two years' rental of the estate concerned.

The Trades' Association thus summarize their objections:

That the Act passed by His Honor's Council on Saturday last does not, in the opinion of your Memorialists, meet the just claims of the people for free representation, for the following reasons:—

I. That the Act is based on the principle of want of confidence in the electors and their representatives, and that it would be useless to expect men of high character and self-respect to serve under such a constitution; and that under it Elective Municipal Institutions cannot, therefore, have a fair trial.

II. That in leaving the appointment of the Chairman in the hands of the Lieutenant-Governor one of the most essential privileges of self-government is witheld.

III. That the Act sanctions the union of the two offices of Chairman of the Commissioners and Commissioner of Police in one individual,—an arrangement which necessarily divides responsibility and diminishes efficiency in respect to two offices which demand the most perfect control.

IV. That the Act, so far from securing economy in the Municipal expenditure, opens the door to extended expenditure on the various objects enumerated under Section 26, many of which do not come within the ordinary duties of a Municipality.

V. That the Act contains no provision for a proper and efficient control of the Finances, the need of which is proved by the facts disclosed in the Report of the Auditors for 1874—that in that year no less a sum than, Rs. 1,88,301-15-10 was spent in excess of Budget Estimates, and a further sum of Rs. 1,96,358-0-7 without any sanction from the Justices.

VI. That all effective voice in the management of the Police Force is withdrawn from the Commissioners.

Nothing could be more reasonable than the arguments advanced by the two Associations against the Bill. His Excellency the Viceroy has not however been pleased to listen to them and has given his assent to the Bill with a precipitation which is unusual. We can appreciate the position, in which Lord Northbrook was placed. He is on the eve of departure, and he could not well leave this matter to his successor, who was not acquainted with its history or bearings. On the other hand he could hardly be expected to vetoe a pet measure of the local Government at the close of his administration. He has himself been protesting against the excessive interference of the Secretary of State, and perhaps he did not like to commit the same line of action with reference to the local Government of Bengal. But there is no analogy between the two—in the one case the Secretary of State wishes to take a power which the Constitution does not give him, viz., the power of initiating legislation, and in the other the law has vested him with the power of vetoing a Bill passed by the local Council. Lord Northbrook we confess is hardly consistent in vetoing the Municipalities' Bill of Sir George Campbell and assenting to the Calcutta Municipal Bill of Sir Richard Temple. The last mentioned Bill, though considerably improved at the last stage, is still open to serious objections. The Calcutta public have fought hard to get a good bill, but they have not succeeded. They had hoped that Lord Northbrook would signalize the close of his administration by conceding their legitimate wishes, but that hope has been dashed to the ground!

INDIAN LEGISLATION.

Two important lines of action have been taken at the same time on the subject of Indian legislation. The first is the Indian Legislation Bill, the second is the direction of the Secretary of State that the local Governments should submit to him all projects of legislation before introduction into the local Councils. The Parliamentary Bill gives more power to the Indian Legislative Council in some matters than is vested in it by the existing law, and takes away some import out powers. As the *Pioneer* points out, the Council, is for the first time expressly permitted to repeal or alter any of the provisions in the Letters Patent of any High Court. The section concludes with a proviso that the Governor General in Council shall not make any laws which affect the authority of Parliament, or which repeal or are inconsistent with the Acts of Parliament mentioned in one of the Schedules to the Act. It is however worthy of note that the proviso in the Indian Councils' Act, forbidding the Supreme Council to pass any law affecting any part of the unwritten laws or constitution of the United Kingdom, whereon may depend in any degree the allegiance of any person to the Crown, or the sovereignty or dominion of the Crown over any part of British India, is not re-enacted in the new Bill.

It is the denudation of the authority of the High Court against which we protest. The *Pioneer* says, that "the time has perhaps come when the somewhat antiquated functions of the High Courts as checks upon the tyrannical excesses of Governors-General, might very usefully be disposed of once for all. The theory dates back to the time when Governors-General could only be checked by Judges invested with a semi-political authority, or by the very feeble agency of a six months' post. The whole notion is utterly out of harmony with modern Indian government." Again: "A very few years ago a suit came on in appeal before the Bombay High Court relating to certain villages of Kattywar. An objection was taken to the jurisdiction of the Court, and it appeared that these villages had in 1866 been transferred by the Bombay Government to the state of Bhownuggur. In the *Gazette of India* of February 1873, the Governor General of India in Council had notified the fact, and the following section of the Evidence Act was appealed to as settling the whole question. "A notification in the *Gazette of India*, that any portion of British territory has been ceded to any Native State, Prince, or Ruler, shall be conclusive proof that a valid cession of such territory took place at the date mentioned in such notification." The Bombay Judges, however, decided that this section was invalid as being *ultra vires*, and affecting the authority of Parliament, which, alone they said, possessed the power of ceding British territory to a Native State, and of transferring the allegiance of British subjects to a native potentate. The case was appealed several months ago to the Privy Council, but, as far as we are aware, no judgment has yet been delivered. Whatever may be the decision in this particular case, it is said that the executive authorities in India view with increasing jealousy the checks exercised by the judicial power over their acts, and that they have prevailed upon the India Office to introduce a section in the Bill, which, if carried, will do much to free them from the control of the High Courts. Such is the opinion of the Government organ upon the real character of the Bill.

Let us however turn to what the *Saturday Review* says in respect of the Bill. The last section of the Bill recites that, if a division of any High Court, in its appellate or extraordinary original jurisdiction, shall deem any law passed by the Viceroy, and not disallowed by the Secretary of State, to be repugnant to an Act of Parliament, the Judges may decide that such law, or part of it, is invalid. Then a copy of the judgment is to be sent to the Viceroy, who is either to repeal the Act or to refer it home, whereupon the Secretary of State is allowed to appeal to the Privy Council. And it is also provided that any Court-martial which may think like the High Court is to look to the Act of Parliament and completely throw overboard the Indian legislation. The *Reviewer* remarks:

"These provisions, though professedly intended to restrict the power of the lower judicial Courts to arraign the legislative acts of the Indian Government, start altogether from an unsound principle, and may lead to amazing results. They seem akin to the sort of statesmanship which last year gratified disloyal natives and dismayed Anglo Indians by the blunders of the Baroda case. By one class in India the proposal will be received with indignation; by another with incredulity; by some with perfapproval; and by not a few with the malicious glee which is shown by a mischievous schoolboy when there is a prospect of the head-master and the usher coming to logger heads. Nothing more delights certain sections of the native community than the excitement of an unseemly contest between two great powers in the State. There are always in India rich people with money to spend in gratifying their whims or airing their grievances, and there are fluent advocates who like to show that such or such an act is quite beyond the power of the State. The Zemindars of Bengal are invariably ready to cry out that some law taxing them or compelling them not to neglect thier duty nullifies the Perpetual Settlement. Bigoted Brahmins would have retained Suttee in old days, and more recently would have deprived converts of the rights of inheritance and marriage. Wahabis are ready to arraign every act of the State and its officers with an acrimony compounded of sectarian zeal and political rancour. A score of things may happen at any moment to arouse these selfish and disloyal feelings, which will survive half-a-dozen Royal visits. The High Court may any day, when any law is found inconvenient, be turned into an arena for seditious and inflammatory political harangues. The judges of the High Court are usually men of high character and independence, bu they may be compelled to listen for hours to arguments which they cannot endorse, and may not like to check ardent and impulsive barristers bent on convincing their clients that the independent Englishman is not so easily put down. No matter if the case is visibly hopeless from the first. The High Court may ultimately decide that there is no repugnancy, but the object will have been gained. A rich and influential party will grudge no expense in feeding fat its hatred against law and authority; the tale will be diffused by the thousand channels of a seditious press into every bazaar of the province; and half-educated and wholly credulous natives will have learnt with joy that there is a power somewhere which can safely insult the Viceroy and defy his officers. This is no imaginary picture. In a political trial held a very few years ago a barrister, now deceased, delivered a harangue in favour of his clients which very nearly brought himself within the grasp of the penal code; and all readers must recollect passages in Indian history, from the time of Impey and Hastings down to recent days, in which, if statesmen were not lawyers, judges showed plainly that they could be active politicians."

Could any thing be more illiberal and intolerant than the above? If the Judges of the High Court are worthy of confidence, why does the *Reviewer* go into hysterics and think that the very mitigated power of the High Court will produce commotion? The feeling which breathes in the *Reviewer's* remarks shews that however Englishmen may be jealous of law in their own country, they do not care an iota about it, when it is applied to India. Strange to say that neither does the *Pioneer* nor the *Saturday Review* take objection to that part of the Bill, which authorizes the Secretary of State to disallow a part of a Bill. This will do much more harm to the cause of good Government in India than is perhaps now supposed. Coupled with the direction of the Secretary of State that all projects of legislation should be laid before him first before introduction this clause will effectually transfer all power of legislation from the Governor General to the Secretary of State, and reduce the former to a puppet. We are not of those who think that all power should be centred in the hands of the Governor General, but we do hold that all power of initiation should rest with the Governor General and all control with the Secretary of State. To vest the Secretary of State with the power of initiation in legislation and to arm him with authority to disallow part of an Act would be to reduce the Government of India to a machinery for the registration of the decrees of the India Office.

THE BOMBAY REVENUE JURISDICTION BILL.

We rise from a perusal of the speeches of Messrs. Hope and Hobhouse on the Bombay Revenue Jurisdiction Bill with a feeling of despair. That two such able and honorable gentlemen—particularly Mr. Hobhouse, should have misread the law as it was, and taken away the only safeguard of the people against injustice, a suit in the Civil Court, really surpasses our understanding. Mr. Hope's position is peculiar. His own proceedings have been the subjects of comments in courts and public prints, and he is not therefore a disinterested or dispassionate Judge. But Mr. Hobhouse brings an independent mind to bear

on the question, and what after all is the sum-total of his reasoning? The law is thus laid down in Regulation XVII. of 1827:

"II. *First.*—All lands, whether applied to agricultural or other purposes, shall be liable to the payment of land revenue to Government, according to the established principles which Govern the assessment of that description of land to which it belongs, except such as may be proved to be either wholly or partially exempt from the payment of land revenue, under any of the provisions contained in Chapters IX. and X. of this Regulation.

"*Second.*—Provided, however, that nothing contained in the preceding clause, or in the enactments therein cited, shall be understood to affect the right of Government to assess to the public revenue all lands, under whatever title they may be held, whenever and so long as the exigencies of the State may render such assessment necessary.

"IV. *First.*—When there is no right on the part of the occupant in limitation of the right of Government to assess, the assessment shall be fixed at the discretion of the Collector, subject to the control of Government.

"*Second.*—When there is a right on the part of the occupant in limitation of the right of Government, in consequence of a specific limit to assessment having been established and preserved, the assessment shall not exceed such specific limit.

"IX. *First.*—The Collector's decision upon any question arising out of the provisions of the preceding section shall, in the first instance, be obeyed and acted upon as the rule.

"*Second.*—But if any person should deem himself aggrieved by any such decision, he may either present to the Collector a petition, addressed to Government, praying for redress, or may file an action against the Collector in the Civil Court, under the ordinary rules or he may pursue both methods at the same time."

Sir B. Ellis, the author of the Bill, went upon the assumption that the Bombay High Court held that the discretion of the Collector is, in all matters of land assessment, subject to that of the civil courts—that there is not a single question which can arise in the course of a settlement, whether it relates to the fertility of soils or the prices of produce, or any other matter, if any there be, even more impossible for a court of law to investigate, which may not be taken out of the skilled hands that can deal with it, and carried before a tribunal that knows nothing about it. He also remarked that the civil judge might even control the broadest principles of an assessment; that he might disapprove of the portion of the assets which the Government might think it right to take; that he might think that the assessment ought to be governed by prevailing rates of rent, instead of the productiveness of the soil and the rates of prices, or he might think the contrary, that he might even decide that the exigencies of the State were not such as to warrant the imposition of such an assessment as the collector had decided to impose, that in all these cases the decision of the revenue officer was expressly made disputable in a civil action; that, in short, the whole land revenue system of the country was, by this regulation, made subject to the control of the civil courts. Now this is what the High Court denies. The Court in the Kanara case remarks:

'We took that opportunity of disclaiming any such jurisdiction, in consequence of remarks made some time previously (*c*) in the same quarter as that already mentioned, but by a different speaker, which attributed to the civil courts an extent of authority which they never possessed, and, so far as we know, never claimed.'

'We are inclined to the opinion that the jurisdiction should be regarded as thus circumscribed even independently of the IVth Section of that regulation. For we should be disposed to hold that Section IX. (which empowers a person deeming himself aggrieved by the decision of the collector, to file an action against the collector in the civil court) does not authorize the court to exercise any control over the collector unless he transgress the law. That is the proper and well-understood sphere of action of courts of justice, and unless a contrary intention be clearly indicated, the Legislature should not be regarded as intending to confer upon them any greater power. The preamble, which points out that the intention of the Legislature was to provide means for determining as to the title to exemption from payment of revenue when the revenue officers deem that title to be insufficient, is completely consistent with that view. The IXth Section should, we think, be interpreted in that light. Neither in that section, nor in any part of the regulation, is there, in our opinion the faintest intimation of a desire on the part of the Legislature that the civil judges should be transformed into revenue commissioners, or collectors of superior grade. We should no more deem the civil courts entitled to arrogate to themselves the duties of those offices, than Lord Selborne, sitting in Chancery, did to assume functions assigned by State to a School Board (L. R. 9 Chan. App. 122), or Sir G. Jessel sitting in the Rons Court did to appropriate to himself functions conferred upon a Railway Clearing Committee (L. R. 10 Eq 383)."

Thus the bill is founded upon a false issue altogether. Mr. Hobhouse practically admits this, and yet gives a construction to the opinion of the High Court, which is not justified by the words used:

"It will be observed that, in expounding the regulation, the learned judges fasten upon Section IV., which says that when there is no limit of the right to assess, the assessment shall be fixed at the discretion of the collector, subject to the control of Government, and they say that the civil courts are thereby excluded by implication. That might be so if it were not for the express words of the overriding Section IX., which contains nothing whatever that is at variance with Section IV., but only shows exactly how far the collector's decision is to operate, and how it is controlled. In any question, without exception, arising out of the preceding sections (the section preceding Section IX.), the collector's decision is to be the rule *in the first instance only*. If any person deems himself aggrieved by such decision, he may petition Government, or bring his action, or do both."

"The conclusion drawn by the learned judges is that the jurisdiction given to the courts is confined to 'the legal right or title of the plaintiff to exemption or partial exemption,' and that the extensive words of Section IX., must be cut down by what is called the distribution construction, *u reddendo singula singulis*. But to confine the jurisdiction to cases of exemption is not reconcileable with—in fact, it would almost, if not wholly, nullify the language of Section IX. That section provides for controlling the collectors' decision upon any question arising out of the *preceding* sections, and the controversies about exemptions are dealt with in certain *succeeding* sections, which prescribe the duties of the collector and of the courts. According to the ordinary meaning of words, a limit to assessment is the same thing with exemption, and if that be the construction of the regulation, Section IX., would be nullified by the suggested construction. I believe, however, that according to the decisions, there may be a limit to assessment, which is not exemption within the meaning of the regulations; still the great bulk of exemptions are dealt with by the subsequent and not the preceding sections, and so these sweeping words of Section IX., would be cut down to insignificant dimensions. I conceive, therefore, that it must be the other numerous proceedings that are mentioned, and not the exemptions, which are contemplated by Section IX."

The Court has drawn a broad line of distinction, which is clear and definite, and yet the Law Member does not accept it. He has not even the frankness to acknowledge that the mover of the Bill had done gross injustice to the Court. He says: "I think, that the law propounded by the learned judges is a great improvement on the regulation as it stands; that it is dictated by thorough good sense and good policy, and the only fault I find with it is that as the line is at present drawn, it does not exclude from the civil courts some classes of cases that ought not to come before them." Now what are the cases to which the jurisdiction of the Civil Courts is limited. We give below the provision of the new Bill bodily:

Subject to the exceptions hereinafter appearing, no Civil Court shall exercise jurisdiction as to any of the following matters:—

(*a*) claims against Government relating to any property appertaining to the office of any hereditary officer appointed or recognised under Bombay Act No. III of 1874, or any other law for the time being in force, or of any other village-officer or servant, or

claims to perform the duties of any such officer or servant, or in respect of any injury caused by exclusion from such office or service, or

suits to set aside or avoid any order under the same Act or any other law relating to the same subject for the time being in force passed by Government or any officer duly authorized in that behalf, or

claims against Government relating to lands held under treaty, or to lands granted or held as saranjam, or on other political tenure, or to lands declared by Government or any officer duly authorized in that behalf to be held for service:

(*b*) objections—

to the amount or incidence of any assessment of land-revenue authorized by Government, or

to the mode of assessment, or to the principle on which such assessment is fixed, or

to the validity or effect of the notification of survey or settlement, or of any notification determining the period of settlement;

(*c*) claims connected with or arising out of any proceedings for the realization of land-revenue or the rendering of assistance by Government or any officer duly authorized in that behalf to superior holders or occupants for the recovery of their dues from inferior holders or tenants;

claims to set aside on account of irregularity, mistake, or any other ground except fraud, sales for arrears of land-revenue;

(*d*) claims against Government—

(1) to be entered in the revenue survey or settlement records or village papers as liable for the land-revenue, or as superior holder, inferior holder, occupant or tenant, or

(2) to have any entry made in any record of a revenue survey or settlement, or

(3) to have any such entry either omitted or amended;

(*e*) the distribution of land or allotment of land-revenue on partition of any estate under Bombay Act IV. of 1863, or any other law for the time being in force;

(*f*) claims against Government—

to hold land wholly or partially free from payment of land-revenue, or

to receive payments charged on or payable out of the land-revenue, or

to set aside any cess or rate authorized by Government under the provision of any law for the time being in force, or

respecting the occupation of waste or vacant land belonging to Government;

(*g*) claims regarding boundaries fixed under Bombay Act No. I. of 1865, or any other law for the time being in force, or to set aside any order passed by a competent officer under any such law with regard to boundary-mark:

Provided that if any person claim to hold land wholly or partially exempt from payment of land-revenue under—

(*h*) any enactment for the time being in force expressly creating an exemption not before existing in favour of an individual or of any class of persons, or expressly confirming such an exemption on the ground of its being shown in a public record, or its having existed for a specified term of years, or

(*i*) an instrument or sanad given by or by order of the Governor of Bombay in Council under Bombay Act No. II. of 1863, section one, clause first, or Bombay Act No. VII. of 1863, section two, clause first or

(*j*) any other written grant by the British Government expressly creating or confirming such exemption, or

(*k*) a judgment by a Court of law, or an adjudication duly passed by a competent officer under Bombay Regulation XVII. of 1827, chapter X. or under Act XI. of 1852, which declares the particular property in dispute to be exempt;

such claim shall be cognizable in the Civil Courts.

Illustrations to (h).

(1). It is enacted that, in the event of the proprietary right in lands, the property of Government, being transferred to individuals, they shall be permitted to hold the lands for ever at the assessment at which they are transferred. The proprietary right in certain lands is transferred to A at an assessment of Rs. 1000. An exemption from higher assessment, not before existing is expressly created in favor of A by enactment, and he may seek relief in the Civil Court against over-assessment.

(2). It is enacted that when a specific limit to assessment has been established and preserved, the assessment shall not exceed such specific limit. A is the owner of land worth Rs. 100 for assessment. He claims to be assessed at Rs. 50 only on the strength of a course of dealing with him and his predecessors under which his land has not been more highly assessed. There is no exemption not before existing created by enactment, and A's claim is not cognizable in a Civil Court.

(3) It is enacted that land-revenue shall not be leviable from any land held on entered in the land-registers as exempt. A claims to hold certain land as exempt on the ground that it has been so held by him and is so entered in the land-register. This is an exemption expressly confirmed by enactment on the ground of its being shown in a public record, and A's claim is cognizable in a Civil Court.

(4). It is enacted that the Collector shall confirm existing exemption of all lands shown in certain maps to be exempt. A claims exemption alleging that his land is shown in the maps to be exempt. A's claim is cognizable in a Civil Court.

(5) It is enacted that assessment shall be fixed with reference to certain considerations, and not with reference to other. This is not an enactment creating an exemption in favor of any individual or class, and no objection to an assessment under such an enactment is cognizable in a Civil Court.

It will be seen from the above that the jurisdiction of the Civil Court is considerably circumscribed. The present law confers upon it jurisdiction in all matters of *right*, but the *Bill* considerably curtails it. The Court is not even permitted to try a question involving prescriptive right. If this is not contrary to principles of civilized jurisprudence, we submit with all deference to Mr. Hobhouse we do not know what that is.

Mr. Hobhouse laid great stress upon the circumstance that in England the Civil Courts have no jurisdiction in matters of taxation. But such jurisdiction is not claimed in India. We are constrained to say that Mr. Hobhouse entirely begs the question, and yet we are told that far from curtailing the Bill he extends the jurisdiction of the Civil Courts.

We are glad to learn that the people of Bombay have resolved to convene a monster meeting on the subject. We wish that they had held this meeting earlier. But on the principle better late than never, we would hail this demonstration.

THE VALUE OF SILVER AND THE PERMANENT SETTLEMENT.

THE fall in the value of silver is likely to lead to a monetary revolution in India, and the public are naturally alarmed. Some of our contemporaries are making this a pretext for doing away with the Permanent Settlement in Bengal. Our contemporary of the *Englishman* says: "Nothing could well be more calculated to bring vividly back to men's minds the exceeding folly of the land policy of Lord Cornwallis than the present position of the silver market. A gradual fall in the value of silver, though its effect on a fixed land revenue would be just as certain, might very well fail to impress the imagination, or the importance of the loss might be veiled by the simultaneous expansion of other sources of revenue. But a sudden fall like that with which we are now threatened, which, indeed, unless the price of silver should rapidly recover, may be said to have actually occurred, brings us at once face to face with the fact that its land revenue system, and particularly that part of it which is called the Permanent Settlement, bars the Government of India from the benefit of that process of adjustment by which, in the long run, increase in the quantity of its silver receipts would neutralise the diminution in their intrinsic value." We wish our contemporary had referred to the history of the Permanent Settlement and called to mind the circumstances which had led to it. The State was then verging on bankruptcy; it was carrying on a desperate

war with Hyderabad the revenue was collected with great uncertainty, and the exchequer was consequently empty. It was in this crisis Lord Cornwallis conceived the idea of a Permanent Settlement of the land revenue, and his Lordship fixed the assessment at ten-elevenths of the gross rental—a rate unprecedented in the history of land assessment in any country. But the perpetuity of the State demand was a compensation, though most of the original landholders broke down under this heavy burden. The much-abused Permanent Settlement however served two important objects—it saved the State from impending bankruptcy, and a new impetus was given to land improvement by the reclamation of waste lands, which contributed to the improvement of revenue. These facts are not however borne in mind by those, who inveigh against the Settlement, and we now hear a cry for its abrogation on the score of a fall in the price of silver. We are, however, confident that the Government will not break its plighted faith; it values its own character for good faith more than its short-sighted counsellors; what however surprises us most is that these critics scarcely realize the import and magnitude of their demand. Do they see that to be consistent the Government should also make an allowance for depreciation of silver to its creditors? But it would seem that the latent motive in this agitation is the increase of salaries of Government officers. The *Englishman* says: "The Government may long resist the demand for increased salaries which this rise will cause. It may argue that it agreed to pay its servants so many rupees, and that it pays them so many; and it may be said that this is not more unfair than that the Government should take the loss on itself. But, ultimately, it is not a question of fairness at all, but of value. Either Government servants were paid too much when the rupee was worth two shillings, or they are paid too little when it is worth one and six-pence; and, in the latter case, the ordinary laws of supply and demand will ultimately compel the Government to pay the equivalent of the former salaries, or put up with inferior material. Really, then, the question in the end is not one of having to pay two or three millions more in the shape of loss by exchange on its home disbursements, but of having to submit to a corresponding increase in all its pay[illegible]. The cat is thus out of the bag. The cry against the Permanent Settlement means [illegible] increase of the salaries of Government [illegible] and this cry we fear will rise [illegible] much as those who wield the power [illegible] and are vitally interested in it. We admit that the Government is not responsible [illegible] in the value of silver, but much of its evil effects is due to its own policy. The Home charges have increased from 2½ millions to nearly 16 millions, and the Government has been steadily running up the demand in England. The Government was short-sighted enough to make contracts with the Railway Companies in pounds, and this is one item of loss. Then the stores are brought out direct from England, whereas if they were taken from India there would be a saving both in cost and exchange. This point was very forcibly pointed out at the Income tax meeting of 1870. Then the Army charges have been greatly increased in England by the amalgamation of the Indian and British armies. These measures of Government have made it a loser in the remittance of money, and is it meet, just or honest to ask for the abrogation of a measure, in which its good faith is solemnly pledged? The *Englishman* says: "We have no hesitation in saying that political morality and humanity alike require that, if the value of the rupee continues to fall, or if even its present diminished value proves permanent, it should review its Land Revenue system. It would be the wickedest cowardice and the height of political insanity to blink the necessity under such circumstances". This may be the opinion of the *Englishman*. But does our contemporary consider what would be the opinion of the people of India if such a gross breach of faith were committed? If the confidence of the people is real strength to Government, we do not hesitate to say that the measure proposed by our contemporary will entirely destroy that confidence.

THE MEHOMEDANS.

THE Mahomedan Literary Society did honor to itself by voting a valedictory address to Lord Northbrook. The Society express their gratitude to His Lordship for the application of the Mohsin Fund of Hooghly to purposes of Mahomedan education. They remark: "One of the most conspicuous acts of Your Excellency's Government has been the just, courageous and resolute disposal of the question connected with the disbursement of the Mohsineeah Trust Funds, left by the late Hajee Mahomed Mohsin for the promotion of Mahomedan education in the province of Bengal. Now that the matter has been set at rest, it is clear that the diversion of the Funds, or a portion of them, to purposes other than those connected with Mahomedan Education, was simply the effect of a mistake committed by the Government under an imperfect conception of the objects contemplated by the Testator; but as soon as the error was brought to light, the proceedings of the Government under Your Excellency's direction, have been all that the most high-minded statesmanship could have dictated." The Society thus allude to the encouragement given to the employment of Mahomedans:

"It is a hopeless task for us, within due bounds, to draw up a record of the measures of your Excellency's Administration tending directly or indirectly towards the benefit of the Mahomedan Community; but we cannot omit to mention the admission by Your Excellency of young Mahomedan gentlemen to civil and political employment without subjecting them to the chances of a competitive examination. It would be superfluous to estimate the effects likely to accrue from this invaluable concession; and it is our earnest prayer that the magnanimous spirit which underlies so admirable an act of administrative wisdom may yet continue to inspire the counsels of the British Nation in the Government of this Country. In this hope, we are supported by the conviction that on your return home, Your Excellency's advice and guidance will do much to form the policy according to which the management of the affairs of India by the Home Government will be carried on; and we earnestly hope that the interests of the Mahomedans of Bengal may have due place in such advice and assistance as Your Excellency may render to the Ministers of our Beloved Queen."

His Excellency the Viceroy returned the following reply:

Gentlemen,—I am sorry to learn that owing to indisposition the President of Your Society, Kazee Abdool Baree, is unable to be present here this evening. The Government entertain a high regard for him, and he is, I am sure, justly respected by your community.

I was glad to find that, in consequence of the death of the Bishop of Calcutta, you postponed the Conversazione for a short period. This mark of respect on the part of your Society is only another proof of the high estimation in which the Bishop of Calcutta was held by all classes, and of the regret with which the announcement of his death was received throughout the country.

It is very gratifying to me to learn from your Address, that the measures adopted by the Government for the promotion and encouragement of Mahomedan Education have met with your approval, and have been attended with the beneficial results to which you have alluded. As you, yourselves however correctly admit, no measures on the part of the Government, having this object in view, can be really successful unless they receive the encouragement and support of the Mahomedans themselves.

I am glad to hear that the orders issued by Government regarding the Mohsin Fund have given satisfaction to the Mahomedan Community.

During my stay in this country, I have observed with much pleasure, that many gentlemen—Members of the Community to which you belong—have distinguished themselves in the various branches of the Administration. Lord Napier entertains a very high opinion of the Mahomedan Officers in the Army, and Sir Richard Temple of the Mahomedan gentlemen in Civil employ in Bengal.

In my recent tour through Central India, I was much pleased to meet Meer Shahamut Ali, a Mahomedan gentleman, whose management of the State of Rutlam, has been so satisfactory as to merit the high approbation of the Government. I also met the Nawab of Jowrah, who gives every promise of proving a good and intelligent ruler. His Highness is himself an English scholar and does all he can to promote the study of English among his people. His Prime Minister, the Khan Sahib, has shewn great ability in managing the affairs of the Jowrah State and has imparted a good English education to his son. I may also mention here the name of another Mahomedan gentleman, who was selected by Government to serve on the Baroda Commission, and who has since been administering the affairs of the State of Kotah in a creditable manner. I refer to Nawab Fyz Ali Khan Bahadoor. Although it is a delicate thing to allude to one, whom I see present at this meeting, yet I cannot refrain from mentioning the valuable services rendered to the British Government by Nawab Gholam Hussun Khan Bahadoor, as Agent to the Governor-General at the Court of Cabul. There are many other names, to which I might refer; but I think I have mentioned enough to shew that among the Mahomedan subjects of Her Majesty in India, there are many who have rendered valuable and distinguished services to the Government.

Nevertheless, I must again repeat what you yourselves have admitted in your address, that unless you heartily cooperate with the Government in the measures which they are taking for the promotion of Mahomedan education, you can hardly expect to maintain your position in the race for preferment and distinction.

Success in life is not to be obtained, even by those of the highest rank without personal exertion. I will take the instance of the EARL OF DERBY, the present Foreign Minister in England. He is a man of high rank and of large fortune, but no student of the Calcutta University ever worked harder than he did.

You have, in your address, alluded to the great interest evinced by the late LORD MAYO, in the cause of Mahomedan education. From Governor-General to Governor-General and from Secretary of State to Secretary of State, I am satisfied that the same interest will be felt.

It has given me great pleasure to do all that lay in my power to further this important object, and I am sure that LORD LYTTON, who succeeds me, will also take a similar interest in the welfare of the Mahomedan Community.

In conclusion I have to thank you for your kind expressions towards myself personally and also towards my family, and I can assure you, that when I return to England, I shall continue to take a great interest in the welfare of this Society and of the Mahomedan subjects of Her Majesty in India."

Nothing could be more encouraging to our Mahomedan countrymen than the above. The Government is anxious to foster their legitimate ambition, and if they do not avail themselves of the means and appliances placed at their disposal for improvement, they must blame themselves.

LATEST NEWS AND NOTES.

AT LAST Saturday's sitting of the Bengal Council Babu Issur Chunder Mitter took his seat *vice* Babu Juggadanund Mookerjea, who has gone out by rotation. Babu Issur Chunder was a distinguished pupil of the old Hindu College, and has the reputation of being one of the ablest members of the Subordinate Executive Service. This branch of the service is now strongly represented in the Bengal Legislature. We believe Mr. Brooks leaves to-morrow for England, and Mr. W. Spink of Messrs. Thacker Spink & Co. will be appointed his successor.

THE CENSUS of Calcutta was taken on the night of Thursday last. We are glad to say that we have not heard any complaint of misuse of power either by the enumerators or the Police. The returns were not however taken as a rule on the night of Thursday or on Friday. In many cases they had been filled in two or three days previous. Nevertheless we are satisfied that the Census of this year will be much more reliable than that of previous years.

THE new Ordinance coupled with the Dramatic Performances Bill is already bearing fruit. Alarmed by the action taken by the authorities *against* the National Theatrical Company the braziers of Baranussy Ghose's Street, who used to amuse the good people of Calcutta by making a procession through the chief streets of the native town on the occasion of the Churruck festival, consisting of theatrical representations of mythologic legends, pantomymes, and caricatures of ordinary life, have given up their annual festival this year. We cannot adequately describe the poignant feelings of disappointment and dissatisfaction, which this necessary sequence of Government interference with national amusements has caused among the thousands of this city, men, women, and children, who participated in this popular amusement. The enthusiasm among the Londoners for the Derby Day is not greater than it is among the vast mass of the native population of Calcutta for the Braziers' day. The Kansaris' *sang* has become an institution of the city; it has been observed for nearly three quarters of a century, but the people have been terror-struck by the Ordinance and dare not amuse themselves in the way they did before. They know not under what interpretation of the moral code the Penal Code may be enforced—for what may be perfectly harmless and simply amusing according to native ideas of dress and delicacy may be very repugnant to European notions of decency and propriety, and they do not surely like to rot in jail for pandering to the amusement of the public. The feeling which the terror of the Ordinance has produced can be better imagined than described. The moral fetters which the Ordinance and the Dramatic Performances Bill are putting upon the people cannot but cause the deepest feeling of dissatisfaction.

TWO BILLS were passed at the last sitting of the Bengal Council, viz. the Mofusil Municipalities Bill and the Partition Bill. The passing of the first Bill was opposed by Babu Kristodas Pal and Newab Asgar Ali. Mr. Dampier chal-

lenged the Babu to point out any sections which imposed new taxation or new obligations upon the municipalities. The Babu took up the challenge and pointed out *seriatim* the sections which had that effect. He said that the horse and carriage tax had been doubled and a conservancy cess had been proposed, though both of these provisions had been since modified. He pointed out the levy of tolls on roads not only in those municipalities, where such tolls were already levied, but also in all municipalities. This was clearly additional taxation in a most objectionable form. He then observed that the objects of municipal expenditure had been greatly multiplied, such as the maintenance of the establishment in the offices of the Magistrate and the Commissioner for the superintendence of municipal work, which might hereafter fructify into the appointment of a Municipal Secretary under Government, the erection of wharves and jetties, which even in Calcutta were not paid for out of the municipal fund, the making of gardens, which were not required in the Mofusil, the giving of grants from one municipality to the other, and the like. He also pointed out the unsuitableness of the stringent sanitary regulations, building regulations, Bustee regulations, &c., which were much more severe than those of Sir George Campbell's Bill. A wide discretion was left to the local Government in the application of these sections. Thus the Bill, he said, was open to the same objections that the Viceroy had taken in vetoing Sir George Campbell's Bill. His Excellency had remarked: "No feeling of confidence in the discretion of any one man in whose power the administration of a law may for the time being be placed, would in His Excellency's opinion justify him in assenting to a measure, to any essential provisions of which, if fully brought into operation, he entertains such serious objections as he does to some of those, which are contained in the Bengal Municipalities' Bill." His Excellency added, "it is not his desire to interpose an obstacle to improvements in the Municipal law of Bengal, provided that such improvements are not accompanied by any material increase of taxation, or by changes so extensive as those which are embodied in the Bill." The motion for passing the Bill was however carried. The Agrarian Disputes Bill and the Registration of Estates' Bill were also settled in Committee of the whole Council. On the conclusion of the ordinary business of the Council the President paid a graceful tribute to Mr. Dampier for his successful labors in the Council.

SIR RICHARD TEMPLE has given a most substantial proof of his sympathy with the objects of Dr. Sircar's Science Association—he has subscribed Rs. 500 in aid of its funds. On Friday last His Honor sent a cheque to Dr. Sircar for Rs. 500. This donation has a double value—it marks his lively sympathy with the institution and serves as an example to our countrymen. It was originally contemplated to inaugurate the Association in the new house given by Government, under the auspices of Lord Northbrook, but the arrangements not being in a forward state, the original intention cannot be carried out, but we hope the ceremony will be observed before Lord Lytton leaves for Simla. We would take this opportunity to exhort the subscribers to pay in their contributions without delay. The subscribers are all well-to-do gentlemen, and surely they require no dunning. Some have already paid up, but the bulk of the money has not yet been realized. Those subscribers who have not yet paid up ought to look to the example of Sir Richard Temple.

We are requested to mention that Babu Sreenath Ghunder, attorney-at-law, has subscribed Rs. 100 in aid of the Association.

ONE OF THE last Acts of Lord Northbrook has been a pacificatory measure for the North Western Provinces. The local Government had ordered a re survey of the permanently settled districts of the Benares Division, and the people were greatly alarmed. They apprehended the imposition of a new tax such as the acreage tax, and petitioned the local Government for the abandonment of the survey, particularly as there was no necessity for it, the districts having been previously surveyed, and the records being in a complete state. It was urged by the local Government that the survey was required to enable it to provide itself with necessary information in case of a future famine as if the present records did not contain the information wanted. The people of Benares petitioned the Viceroy on the subject, and we are glad to learn that His Excellency had afforded the desired relief. We are told that they are blessing His Excellency with both hands.

THE NEW Art Gallery established by Sir Richard Temple was inaugurated by Lord Northbrook on Thursday last. We are sorry that owing to some mismanagement the reporters were not admitted. The *Statesman* has however published a report which is incomplete. Sir Richard Temple made a really good speech. It was well conceived and excellent in tone and spirit. He has a laudible desire to foster the fine arts in this country, and we wish his project every success. Lord Northbrook gave a practical speech. We give the following extract from the *Statesman's* report:

"His Excellency observed that everything must have a beginning, and he was glad to find that so good beginning was to be made for so excellent an object. He always thought that there should be such a school in the capital city of India to assist very properly those students who had a desire to learn. It was very gratifying to His Excellency to see the specimens that had been sent in, and which were exhibited by the ladies and gentlemen of Calcutta, which in itself showed the interest taken by them; and when encouragement was given, there would be no difficulty in the way of support being given. He was certain that, under the able management of Mr. Loch, the school would derive great advantage. After all, it appeared to His Excellency to be very satisfactory that so great a progress had been made within so short a time; and nothing gave him greater pleasure than to christen the new school this week. What he would like to see was that the students should receive some encouragement from their fellow countrymen. They must recollect that all artists, from Raphael downwards, worked for the purpose of making a subsistence; and if the work of the students did not find encouragement, there would be no desire convinced on their part to improve to perfection. They could not expect much, unless the student found it worth his while to devote his time and attention towards such an art. The people must have a taste for it before they could be expected to give any encouragement. By encouragement, His Excellency did not mean to say that they were to give large sums of money, but moderate sums, until the school was well established. No doubt native gentlemen would like to have portraits as memorials of their friends in their houses. His Excellency had a specimen sent to him by his friend Raja Ramanauth Tagore. He had a head painted, which was done very well indeed; and then he saw the portrait of another native of notability and character, whose name His Excellency need not mention. He was aware that there were some natives who really took a great interest in the art. After some further remarks His Excellency declared the school to be open to-morrow (this day)."

Some of the pictures collected are excellent. His Excellency the Viceroy has presented some good pictures. Among the native gentlemen, who have contributed to the gallery, are the Maharaja of Burdwan, Rajas Jotendromohun Tagore, Suttyanund Ghosal, and Harendrakrishna, Kumar Grishchunder Sing, Rai Rajendra Mullick, Bahadur and Babu Shamachurn Law.

Since the above was in type we have received the official report, which we regret we have not time to publish.

WE HEAR that some sharp correspondence is going on between the Government of Bengal and the Commissioner of Police regarding the Police outrage on the Ghosal family of College Square. The Commissioner of Police observes that the best proof of the groundlessness of the charge against the Police is the absence of a formal complaint on the part of the sufferers. But the Lieutenant Governor is not satisfied with this explanation. His Honor has called upon the Police Commissioner to state whether the old woman, who was molested, did really occupy private ground, whether the remarks made by the Magistrate on the conduct of the Police as reported were correct, and whether the young man, who interfered on the molestation of the woman, was so hurt by the Police that he bled. His Honor would do well also to enquire whether some of the witnesses on behalf of the Police occupy a place in the records of the Police, and whether they are familiar characters.

WE HAVE much pleasure in reproducing the following from *Native Opinion*:

Mr. J. M. Maclean has faults but he is also the possessor of virtues. Whether his faults as a public man do more mischief or his virtues more good we are not going to see. Suffice it to say, he is a model Englishman—of the muscular christianity-school we ought to say—out spoken, courageous and grasping, and as such is always to us an object of admiration; and our people, we fancy, will profit more by cultivating a nearer acquaintance with characteristics of such Englishmen, as Mr. Maclean, than by simply knowing some of the literary or scientific celebrities of England. One of the prominent traits of English character in Mr. Maclean is his fearless criticism of the subject he handles. Whenever he has to speak of any body, from the Governor downwards, all fare alike at his hands and this is what we have always admired in Mr. Maclean. He so well sustained this trait of character in him the other day in the Town Council, that those who may have read his speech—his hearding of Mr. Pedder, at the last Council meeting, cannot have failed to get a glimpse of the real English character and spirit. But for Mr. Maclean the proceedings of the Town Council of Saturday fortnight, which were declared to be secret but which were very important and pecuniarily affected the interests of the Bombay public, would not have been brought to light so soon, or the so called "Manning job" knocked on the head. At this meeting the Municipal Commissioner informed the Town Council that he had arranged, with a Mr. Manning for the testing of pipes for Tulsi Water Works at 2 per cent. that is at an aggregate cost of about Rs. 35,000 to 40,000. He also informed them that the salary of the Executive Engineer to the Municipality was increased to Rs. 1500 and another man appointed to act for him as he was to devote the whole of his time in superintending the erection of Tulsi Water Works. Surely this business ought not to have been made a secret of. It was understood at the meeting that the proceedings were not to be disclosed. The next Monday *Bombay Gazette* came out with the news that a good job had been done. This news, though it surprised many, did not of course lead any body to believe that the Municipal Commissioner was actuated in his arrangements with Mr Manning by any other than honourable motives. The disclosure of the principal points of Saturday's proceedings by the *Gazette* the next Monday resulted in a letter from the Municipal Commissioner to the Town Council explaining his arrangements of Saturday, and accusing Mr. Maclean of a breach of confidence, not without good grounds we believe. This letter was modest in tone but contained some phrases which few natives could have afforded to see in the light Mr. Maclean has done. Mr. Maclean called this letter "arrogant, disingenuous, and peevish" and then proceeded at length to prove the accuracy of his assertion. This he did in a manner which could only be enjoyed and approved by reading it. The perusing of his speech will give a good idea as to what the real English character is and will impress one that it is such fearless characters as Mr. Maclean that has made England what it is. After the conclusion of what we may call the Manning debate, his brother Councillors exerted to persuade Mr. Maclean into consenting that he would not again give out the secrets of the confidential meetings of the Town Council. But Mr. Maclean remained stubborn, his duties as a journalist overriding every other consideration. To the last persuasive words from M. R. N. Khote he replied "No, the only thing I can promise to do is that when I am overruled in the matter (in the matter of deciding whether the proceedings of the Council were to be considered private or public) I will retire with the reporters. Then gentlemen who are left can discuss the subject among themselves."

J. B. R. is a John Bull of this type, though unlike Mr. Maclean he is a friend of the people of this country. But he is not a man of independent means, and so he has gone to the wall.

THE BEHAR HERALD notices the Patna City Police torture case. We give below the facts as summed up by the Joint-Magistrate in his committing order:

"The accused are constables in the Patna City Police station, at Khajeh-Kallan Thanah in the City. The complainant, a woman, about 30 years old, was in the custody of the Police on suspicion of having stolen certain ornaments, the property of one Mudden Kait. On the 27th February when the complainant was in the Khajeh-Kallan Thannah lockup the Bankipur Inspector looked into the Thannah on his way to other work. In consequence of instruction he had received from his superiors he was authorised to exert himself in the original case of theft. He consequently on his visit to the Thannah paraded the constables and selected the three accused. To them he made over the prisoner Makhni, with orders to them to take her where they pleased, but they were distinctly told that if they failed in getting the stolen property within three days they would be dismissed the force. Directly the Inspector left, and little time after, and on the same day the accused took Makhni out of the Thannah on to the road and down to Khaje-Kallan Ghat close by. They then put her in a boat, crossed over with her a narrow slip of back-water connected with the Ganges and landed her on the sand."

The following is a summary of the statement of the woman:

"Makhni being sworn, states:—I asked the accused why they brought me there and they said "go along" and took me to the edge of the river. I asked them why they took me there and they called a "Mallah." He brought a boat and they put me in and the accused got in with me also. They then took me to a dry sandy place and the "Mallah" returned with his boat. That accused (Rughnath) then called a *Domni* Rughnath said to her *beizzut* this woman by putting your hand in her body. The *Domni* said "she is a woman and I am woman how can I do this"; Rughnath then struck the *Domni* two or three blows with a shoe but she did not consent to do it, and he let her go. Then Rughnath called a *Dome* and told him to remove my clothes. The *Dome* objected to do so. Rughnath then beat the *Dome* and the *Dome* took off my clothes and placed them on the sand and Rughnath held my hands while the *Dome* did *beizzut* to me with a shoe. He struck me below the waist (points to parts below the waist.) He beat me first on one side and then on the other, and I rolled about on the sand. As I was being beaten the three men kept saying "produce the property or we will *beizzut* you" I identify the *Dome* who beat me."

We are glad to learn that the Jury brought in a verdict of guilty, and the Judge sentenced, the principal man Rughnath, to three years' and

the other two, to two years' rigorous imprisonment.

THE BEHAR LITERARY SOCIETY have presented a farewell address to His Excellency the Viceroy. The following is the reply of His Excellency:

"The prosperity of India will be very dear to me on my return home, and in no part of the country shall I take a greater interest than in the province of Behar, because, as you remind me, that province was a source, during one year, of great anxiety to Government, owing to the failure of the crops. It will always be a subject of satisfaction to me to remember that the Government, through the instrumentality of Sir Richard Temple, and of the officers of Government in Behar who helped him, together with the assistance given by the Zemindars and native inhabitants of the country, was able to assist the people at that time, and that no serious calamity occurred."

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

MOFUSSIL SUBSCRIPTIONS.	Rs.	As.	P
Krishnapa Chinapa Esq., Kurwar	13	4	0
Rai Sankata Persad, Sec. Benares City Library	13	4	0
Captain E. Baring, London	18	2	0
H. L. Harrison Esq., C. S., Midnapore	13	4	0
Babu Chunder Coomar Das, Moonsheegunge	13	4	0
,, Bepin Chunder Banarjea, Furreedpore	5	0	0
,, Adityapersad, Palamour	10	0	0
,, Gopal Chunder Das, Benares	10	0	0
,, Doorga Churn Bhuttacharjea, Jamalpore	6	10	0
,, Gyanendro Coomar Roy Chowdry, Taki	6	10	0
,, Ramdoolal Khan, Santipore	15	0	0
,, Bhugwan Persad Dutt, Pooree	3	5	0
,, Perbutty Churn Mookerjea, Bhagulpore	6	10	0
,, Mothoora Nath Burmon, Patna	13	4	0
,, Mohiny Mohun Chuckerbutty, Furreedpore	13	4	0
,, Prosunno Coomar Ghose, Thacoorgunge	7	4	0
,, Okhoy Coomar Sen, Burrisal	10	0	0
,, Gobind Chunder Bose, Netrokonah	13	4	0
,, Nursing Narayan, Punch Mohollah	10	0	0
,, Woma Churn Sen, Arkandi	13	4	0
,, Raj Coomar Sircar, Singra	13	4	0
,, Anund Nath Sen, Sangrail	6	8	0
,, Nagassor Persad, Goruckpore	13	4	0

Government Notifications.

Calcutta Gazette.—*April* 5, 1876.

GENERAL.—*The 29th March* 1876—Baboo Gobind Mohun Ghose, Personal Assistant to the Commissioner of the Rajshahye and Cooch Behar Division, having resumed charge of his duties on the forenoon of the 16th March 1876, the unexpired portion of the leave granted to him under orders of the 24th January 1876, is cancelled.

Baboo Kali Nath Dey, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Tipperah, is vested with the powers of a Collector under Act VII (B.C.) of 1868.

The 30th March 1876.—Mr. Charles Arthur Kelly, C.S., reported his departure from India on leave on the 27th March 1876.

Mr. J. F. Stevens, Officiating Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Cuttack, on leave, is appointed to act until further orders, as District and Sessions Judge of Moorshedabad.

Moulvi Dulleelluddeen, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Patna, is allowed leave for three months, under Section 3, Supplement F of the Civil Leave Code, in extension of the leave granted to him under orders of the 8th January 1876.

The services of Mr. James Austin Bourdillon, Officiating Assistant Secretary to the Government of Bengal, are placed temporarily at the disposal of the Government of India in the Home Department.

Mr. John Elliott, M.A., who has been appointed to the Third Class of the Bengal Educational Service, is also appointed to be Meteorological Reporter to the Government of Bengal with effect from the 24th ultimo, *vice* Mr. W. G. Willson, deceased.

Mr. Henry Bell, Superintendent and Remembrancer of Legal Affairs, is appointed to be President of the Central Examination Committee for the first half-yearly departmental examination of assistants and other of 1876.

The orders of the 22nd February last, granting to Mr H. J. Reynolds, Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal, leave for one month under Section 21, Chapter VI of the Civil Leave Code, are cancelled.

Mr. Alexander Mackenzie is appointed to act as Magistrate and Collector of Moorshedabad during the absence, on leave, of Mr. W. Wavell, or until further orders. Mr. Mackenzie will act in the Second Grade of Magistrates and Collectors.

The following officers are appointed to act in the Second Grade of Magistrates and Collectors with effect from the dates mentioned against their names, *viz.*—

Mr. Robert Henry Wilson, Officiating Magistrate and Collector of the 24-Pergunnahs;—from the 1st ultimo, the date on which Mr. F. Wyer made over charge of his duties as Officiating Magistrate and Collector of Fureedpore.

Mr. Arthur Weekes, Officiating Magistrate and Collector of Fureedpore, from the 8th ultimo, the date on which Mr. L. B. B. King made over charge of his duties as Officiating Magistrate and Collector of Maldah.

Mr. Frederick Hubert McLaughlin, Officiating Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector; Moorshedabad, is appointed to act temporarily, until further orders, as District and Sessions Judge of Jessore.

An extension of furlough for four months has been granted to Mr. H. Beveridge, C. S., by the Right Hon'ble the Secretary of State for India.

The 3rd April 1876.—Mr. Alexander Thomas Maclean, District and Sessions Judge, 24-Pergunnas, is appointed, under, Section 3 of Act X of 1870, to perform the functions of a Judge in the town of Calcutta for the purpose of disposing of cases of land acquisition under the provisions of that Act.

The 4th April 1876.—Mr. A. B. Falcon, Officiating District and Sessions Judge of Moorshedabad, is allowed special leave for one month, under Section 15 of the Civil Leave Code.

Baboo Rakhal Das Mookerjee, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Dacca, on leave, is appointed to have charge of the Baripore division of the district of the 24-Pergunnahs.

This cancels the orders of the 15th ultimo, appointing Baboo Poorno chunder Ghose, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, to have charge of the Baripore sub-division.

Baboo Poorno chunder Ghose, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, is posted to the district of Dacca.

The Hon'ble Henry Lucius Dampier, C. S., is allowed furlough for one year, under Section 10 (a) of the Civil Leave Code, together with the usual subsidiary leave for a period not exceeding thirty days, with effect from the 26th ultimo.

Baboo Gopal chunder Mookerjee, Officiating Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Pooree, is transferred to Serampore, in the District of Hooghly.

POLICE.—*The 3rd April* 1876.—Mr. Oswald B. Wood is appointed to act, until further orders, an Assistant Superintendent of Police.

Mr. H. W. J. Bamber, Officiating District Superintendent of Police, Jessore, is appointed to be a District Superintendent of Police, Rajshahye.

Mr. S. J. Kilby, Assistant Superintendent of Police, on special duty in the Patna Division, is appointed to act, until further orders, as District superintendent of Police, of Jessore.

Mr. Bayley Officiating Assistant Superintendent of Police, Gya, is posted to the Mudhoobunnee division of the Durbhanga district.

EDUCATION.—*The 3rd April* 1876.—Mr. C. H. Tawney, Professor, Presidency College, is allowed fourlough for eighteen months under Section 10 (*a*) of the Civil Leave Code, with effect from the 6th instant or such later date as he may avail himself of it. Mr. Tawney is also allowed three days' subsidiary leave under Section 18 of the Code.

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The Commissioners will on the 19th and 20th days of April next, at noon, proceed to revise the said Valuations and Assessments, and to hear all Appeals connected therewith, but no Appeal shall be heard unless presented on or before the 10th of the said month, accompanied by a previous Quarter's bill.

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